GOKULAM

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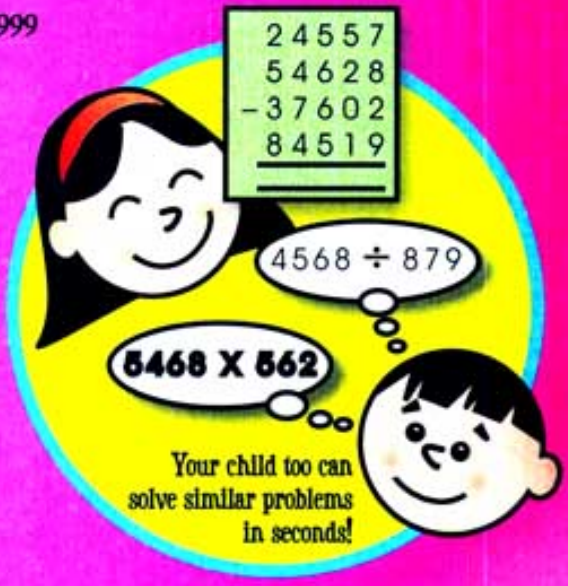

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GOKULAM

December 2003
Vol. XVI, No.6

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

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The Magazine for Children

The art of enjoying music!

Dear Reader,

December is the season for art festivals in Chennai. It also heralds Christmas and Karthigai, the festival of lamps for Hindus. December also adds a bitter taste in the form of half yearly exams. Well, life is like that - a mixure of bitter and sweet; good and bad; joy and sorrow. In short a bundle of contradictions, which we have to learn to live with. How do we develop this tolerance?

The secret is to see the brighter side of every incident. Supposing you are watching TV and your mother needs your help in some house - hold chores; instead of getting angry, why not utilise the ad. break to help her out? She'll certainly understand if your response to her call is not immediate, provided you explain and assure her of your co-operation.

During the art festival, Chennai reverberates to the sounds of music and dance. Even if you cannot afford to go to concerts, you can watch a telecast or hear a broadcast twice or thrice a day of different artistes. But many children seem to shun listening to classical music, since they feel that it requires a lot of skill and knowledge to appreciate the same. Nonsense! It is only the artiste who needs the skill to give a fine performance and not the listener or 'rasika'.

All that we have to do is to learn to enjoy the music. This comes out of familiarity. Once you listen to two or three concerts by top artistes over the radio, tape or C.D., you will develop a ear for the same and it will fill you with inner joy. In course of time you will be able to differentiate between ragas and identifying them will become an interesting hobby and exercise for the mind.

Good listening! Merry Christmas and of course best of luck while facing the half yearly exams!

-Editor

Sports Talk

A ROUND UP OF EVENTS

CRICKET

Indian speedster Javagal Srinath announced his retirement from international cricket, after a glittering career that spanned over 12 years.

The Indian under - 19 cricket team registered a historic victory in the four nation Asia Cup tournament, defeating Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the final at the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore, Pakistan.

• Kim Clijsters

• Javagal Srinath

• Pankaj Advani

SNOOKER

Pankaj Advani, the National Snooker Champion, won the World Snooker Championship title in China on his maiden appearance, making him the third youngest champion in Snooker history. He is the second Indian after Om Agarwal to win the World Snooker title.

TENNIS

Kim Clijsters of Belgium defeated Amelie Mauresmo of France in the final of the 2003 WTA Tour Championships in Los Angeles.

Remember!

A 16 - Page booklet with contributions from

FIRST - TIME WRITERS

with the **January 2004** Issue!

Don't miss it!

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT

On Christmas morning Jane and mom sat beside the Christmas tree opening presents. Jane's father was in the army and still not home for Christmas. Jane was sad and missing her father. "Daddy will send a special present for you, dear," said Mother. All day long Jane waited for the special present to arrive. Just before Jane and Mother sat down to dinner, the doorbell rang. "You get it Jane," said Mother. Jane answered the door."Merry Christmas," said Dad! "Dad!" screamed Jane and fell into his arms. "You're the best present of all!"

by Shashi

Viewpoint

WHICH BOOK TO CHOOSE?

When Harry masters the exciting game,

Tenali spreads the Vijayanagara fame.

When Nancy Drew catches spies,

Our beloved Swami is the Malgudi guy.

When Snow White and Cindarella sit down to cry,

Birbal never stops his witty supply.

Do you find anything unique in Western Authors?

I don't find any!

Remember, goodness of a book is assessed only by its quality and originality, surely not by its nationality.

-S.Seshadri
Std. IX
P.S.B.B.S.S.S., Chennai

According to me, children should read Harry Potter as well as folktales and mythological stories. Reading of ancient history books also gives lots of information about ancient kings and kingdoms. So, when Harry Potter and Indian stories are equally enjoyable then why shouldn't we read both?

-Chitra S.Mudaliar
Std. VII
Birla School, Kalyan

I vote for choosing folklore and mythology books. There are many things to know about the past and we cannot neglect any one of those things. In addition to mythology, modern thrilling books can also be read. I think that the books of Tagore and Ruskin Bond are equally enjoyable.

- B.Mithra
Std. VII
A.E.C.S., Kalpakkam

Indian authors are excellent

writers of books that have in them abundant knowledge about India's rich culture, tradition, religion and mythology. The late R.K.Narayan - author of the classic 'Malgudi Days' is an excellent example of a very good Indian author. So let us make the best choice by reading books that make us feel proud of 'Our India'.

-Arthy Balakrishnan,
Std. IX
P.S.B.B.S.S.S. Chennai

I believe that it is necessary for students of present generation to read books relating to Indian mythology besides those written by Western authors. Such books instil in us values such as friendship, love, truth and confidence. They have morals imbibed in them - the victory of virtue over evil, truth over falsehood, the

sanctity of the pledged word, the triumph of love and so on.

Harry Potter and other books have no doubt converted many couch potatoes into book worms, but, we must also take time off to read books on Indian mythology and biographies of great men.

-Vidya.V
Std. XII, BCWCC, Bangalore

Reading foreign books gives us an idea of how those countries are. Many Indian authors give very long or difficult names to the characters in their books. Thus they are very hard to remember. The Western authors enthral the children with comedies and adventures. The Indian writers talk mainly about social life. These are not very interesting. Thus, children love to read foreign books.

-P.U.Gayathri Priyadarshini
Std. VII
Villa Theresa High School
Mumbai

Some books are to be tasted;
some are to be swallowed; and
Some are to be chewed and digested
- Thus goes an English saying.

Selection of any book depends upon the aim and objective of the individual.

People of all ages must know about our mythology. The two epics written by many authors simply and interestingly can be read. These are to be chewed and digested.

-P.Sai Deepak
Std.VI
Sainik School, Korukonda

In keeping with our national heritage and culture, if our great epics and mythology stories are read, they will not only enrich our lives by inculcating in us good manners, good behaviour and respect to our elders but also make us proud of our nation.

Rajaji has written the Ramayana and Mahabharata especially for children. By reading these books you will emerge with greater courage, stronger will and purer mind. They are not just story books, although they are very good in that way too. They are the records of the mind and spirit of our forefathers who cared for the good, ever so much more than for the pleasant and who saw more of the mystery of life than we can do in our interminable pursuit for petty and illusory achievements in the material plane.

V.Mahadevan
Std. VI
P.S.Sr. Sec. School,
Chennai

Harry Potter has indeed captured the minds of young readers. The reading habit is back! There are many Indian stories by Indian authors equally adventurous and magical. Reading Malgudi tales by R.K. Narayan makes one laugh a lot! Swami and his friends are always out to do some pranks on others! The stories of Tenali Rama is another thought provoking book. It is full of wit and wisdom. Ruskin Bond's books creates love for animals in the hearts of young children. The Indian publishers are recently showing interest in bringing out more children's literature by Indian authors. This is indeed a promising sign for the Indian children who are fed only with Enid Blyton and JK Rowling's books.

-Sandra S.Fernandez
Std VIII
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Tripunitura

Question for this month

Pets may be our companion and having them may be fun, but they may also be a root cause for a number of health hazards. There are also space constraints in the city. **Is it advisable to keep pets?**

R. Harini
Std. IX, Vidya Mandir, Chennai

Dear Children,

Please send in your views for or against the above topic. It should be short and crisp (50 - 60 words only) Each entry published will receive a special remuneration of Rs. 25/-. Send in your views quickly to catch the next issue giving all details about yourself.

-Editor

REMEMBERING THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

Article / Arundhati Balachandran

Orville and Wilbur Wright, both skilled mechanics, made use of their bicycle repair shop and factory at Dayton, Ohio - they operated this from 1892 to 1904 - for the construction of their early aircraft, experimenting with movable parts of the wing assembly. Their search for a suitable site for their 'scientific kite flying' led them to Kitty Hawk (in North Carolina), where for a few years they tested their theories of aeronautics - first with kites, then with gliders and finally with the 'Wright Flyer', a petrol - engined biplane which heralded the era of aviation on December 17, 1903.

The first flight was made on a flat expanse below Kill Devil Hill, a few hundred yards from the sea. After this flight, the brothers made some more flights that morning taking turns at the controls. The fourth and longest flight of the day, by elder brother Wilbur, covered 852 feet (260 metres) in 59 seconds. Soon after he landed, a powerful gust caught the biplane and rolled it over several times, wrecking it.

The brothers, who continued their experiments at Dayton, built several biplanes. Record - breaking flights in 1908 by Orville in the U.S. and by Wilbur in France brought them worldwide fame.

December 2003 will see a series of spectacular events in the United States to mark the centenary of the first successful power-driven airplane flight by the brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright from Kill Devil Hill, near Kitty Hawk in the state of North Carolina. The celebrations will end on December 17 with a re-creation of the memorable flight in 1903 by a replica of the original 'Wright

Flyer', assembled from wood, wire and canvas cloth.

At Kitty Hawk, a 60 - foot - tall granite monument was unveiled in 1932 to mark the historic first flight by the Wright brothers. It bears the inscription : "In commemoration of the conquest of the air by the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright. Conceived by genius, achieved by dauntless and unconquerable faith." Visitors can still see the original landing field at Kill Devil Hill, as well as large stone markers indicating where the first few flights of the Wright brothers landed.

THE CONCORDE

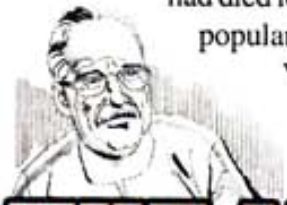
The Concorde, developed in the 1970s by British Aerospace and Air France as a supersonic passenger aircraft is the only type in the world. On November 29th 1962 the French and British Government entered into a formal agreement to jointly develop a medium and long-range supersonic airliner that eventually became Concorde. British airways and Air France have several of these planes. They have a top speed of 1,448mph (2316km/h), roughly twice as fast as the speed of sound. The Concorde first flew on Friday, April 20 in 1979. They can fly from London to New York in only 3 hours. While technically these are marvelous machines, commercially they were a complete failure. They were not allowed to travel at supersonic speeds over land because of the sonic boom they created. They used so much fuel and needed so much maintenance, that prices were very high. London to New York return was £3,000 or US $5,000.

The crash of a Concorde on 25th July 2000 in Paris led to a drop of the passenger numbers. The drastic loss of passenger numbers following the assaults on 11th September in New York, increasing maintenance costs and a series of breakdowns of the aircraft further impaired the situation. Since the beginning of Iraq war, the utilization of the jet had fallen to 20 percent whereas earlier it was at about 50 percent.

The last Concorde ever to take to the skies took off from London's Heathrow airport on October 24, 2003.

Turn to Pages 40-41 for your very own poster of the Concorde!

THE MISSING CRICKET BAT!



Ramshekar was startled at the reply. Ranjith, the old man, sensed this. He repeated "Yes Sir, the only thing that is missing is my cricket bat."

Ramshekar glanced at the palatial Bungalow. It was too big for a single person to reside in. Ranjith's wife had died long ago. His son worked for a popular software company at Silicon Valley in the US; and his daughter had been married to a medical practitioner in London.

"Sir, I am not alone here. I have four people to help me," said Ranjith and called the four.

"He is Muthu, the watchman. He has been serving here for the past fifteen years". Muthu, who was in his forties, saluted Ramshekar. He looked robust for his age. For some mysterious reason he threw a suspicious glance at Ramshekar.

"I am Kamakshi ," the only woman in the house volunteered to introduce herself. "I look after the kitchen. Our master suffers from high blood pressure and I see to it that the food prepared contains lesser salt," she went on.

Ranjit introduced a boy in his teens who was anxiously waiting to be introduced to Ramshekar. "He is Manickam, who looks after trivial household chores." Manickam was wearing a pair of trousers and a shirt. He had just then returned with a bag of vegetables from the market. "Today, tomatoes were sold cheap and I bought an extra kilo," he declared proudly. Kamakshi did not take it pleasantly. "You always make your own decisions. Discontinue this habit,"she said curtly.

Ramshekar was keenly observing this conversation when Prem entered. "He is my driver. A very smooth driver indeed!" Prem who had a clean-shaven face, nodded respectfully and left the room. The other servants too left to look after their respective work.

Ramshekar was pondering. "Why should the thief steal just the cricket bat when there are more valuable things here?"

Ranjith had an answer

for this. "I keep every item here under lock and key. I am concerned about my cricket bat because my son sent it through one of his friends. He handed it over to me just twenty minutes back. I immediately kept it in the shelf but forgot to lock it. The cricket bat is a miniature. It was studded with a few costly gems".

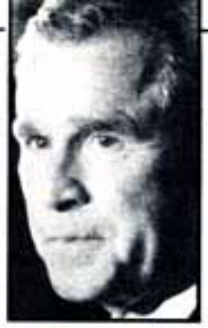
"In that case we need to make a thorough search of the house," declared Ramshekar. He called all the four workers and requested them to help him in finding the lost cricket bat.

The four made a thorough search. Muthu searched for the cricket bat in the garden. Kamakshi made a frantic search of the lofts. Manickam searched for the bat in the room corners and table drawers. Prem did his share of searching, in the show case and below the cots.

The cricket bat was still missing. But the penetrating look of Ramshekar at a particular person in the house indicated that he strongly suspected that person.

Who do you think is the culprit? See if your answer matches that of the detective Ramshekar's. Don't forget to give the reason for your suspicion!

To check your answer turn to page 67



THE ELUSIVE PEACE!

Using constitutional powers, Sri Lankan President, Chandrika Kumaratunga took over the three important ministerial portfolios of defence, interior and mass communication. Simultaneously she prorogued the Parliament. This surprise move came closely after the LTTE had submitted its proposals for an interim self governing authority for the North East. The President said that she was willing to discuss with the LTTE a just and balanced solution to the Sri Lankan Tamil's problem but will not allow an independent Tamil State to be carved out of Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe who was in U.S.A at this time returned to Sri Lanka and described Chandrika's move as autocratic. His party has a majority in parliament. Preliminary talks between the Prime Minister and the President did not yield any results. Meanwhile Norway which had taken a lot of initiative to help the peace process has withdrawn from the scene.

* * *

The previleges committee of the Tamilnadu assembly, punished the Editor, publisher, and a few editorial staff members of the Hindu with simple imprisonment for 15 days. The sentence was for an editorial which the Committee felt was breach of previlege of the house. This created a furore and journalists all over the country expressed their solidarity by protesting in many ways. The Hindu took the matter to the Supreme Court which ordered a stay on the punishment meted out by the previleges committee. Following this, there is a clamour for codifying the previleges of the parliament and assemblies.

* * *

Chandrababu Naidu has dissolved the Andhra Pradesh assembly and has recommended early election. Probably he wants to cash in on the sympathy wave created by the attempt on his life by naxalites.A landmine exploded in Tirupathi destroying the car in which he was travelling. Naidu himself had a miraculous escape.

* * *

The Central Review Committee examining POTA cases has been given powers to nullify misuse of POTA by the state governments. Soon after, the review committee issued show cause notice to Tamilnadu government for having arrested and jailed MDMK leader Vaiko and journalist Gopal.

* * *

Growing unrest in Iraq against U.S troops stationed there has resulted in several explosions killing many U.S. soldiers as well as civilians and diplomats. In the U.S, public feeling is rising against President George Bush for what is considered to be a misadventure in Iraq.

DREAMS COME TRUE!

Here is the final part of our President's answers to readers' questions.

● **Alamelu R Aiyer, Mumbai**

What are the measures you would adopt to curb the existing problem of 'Brain-Drain' in India?

Our country is producing 300,000

professionals in engineering, medicine and other streams of science every year. If some of them go abroad we should not get perturbed. Such people have linkage with their families and academic institutions. Choice lies with the individual. Spirit to serve the nation should come from within.

● **G. Ranjita, Chennai**

Many say that you have learnt Carnatic

• With Vikram Sarabhai at Thumba Space Centre

Music. Is it true, and if so, who was your "Guru" and what is your favourite "Ragam"?

Madame Kalyani was my teacher. My favourite Ragam is 'Sriragam'.

• S. Karthika, Bangalore

Many students have high aims. But due to their economic and other problems they are not able to achieve their goal. How can they reach their goal?

High performance in the school career will lead to both scholarship and eligibility for getting bank loans for higher learning.

In life there will be problems. Problems have to be defeated through hard work and perseverance. Problems should not defeat the individual.

• S. Niranjana Devi, Trichy

Which is your favourite book? Why?

Lillian Eichler Watson's 'Light from Many Lamps' is my favourite book. Because, it provides courage, happiness and knowledge.

• Krutika Ravi, Mumbai

Do you think India has a chance of becoming a developed country in spite of the prevailing corruption? How?

Corruption can be removed only by the efforts of the family. Father, Mother and Teacher can inculcate 'values' in children in the impressionable age group between 5 and 20. They can remove corruption by teaching and also by leading a value based life.

• Shivani, Chennai

Being the President, are you able to concentrate on science research work? If yes, how are you able to, in spite of a busy schedule?

I allot some time for science and research work. I guide a few research students.

• B.Ishita, Chennai

What is the secret behind remembering various formulas in science and maths?

By constant application one can remember various formulas of science and maths.

• R.Aravindh, Chennai

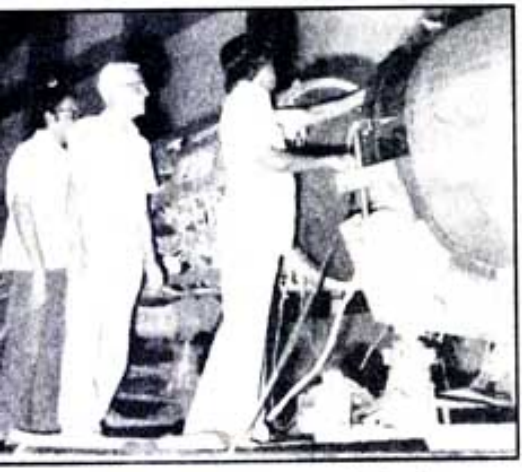
Can you tell us any unforgettable event that happened in your childhood?

I am reminded of my VIII Class teacher Shri Sivasubramaniya Iyer. He taught us how birds fly through his lecture and also by showing real life example at the seashore of Rameswaram. It is an unforgettable event which is etched in my memory forever. It helped me to take up

the study of science intensively.

• Abhishek Shetty, Bangalore

According to you, what is 'Achievement'?



• Shri Abdul Kalam at the final stage before SLV-3 launch

That which gives happiness and fulfillment.

• C.Saranya, Madurai

How far will the vision 'India 2020' be a success?

The movement towards India's Vision 2020 has commenced. Integrated action from the citizens and the government will lead to realization of the Vision. It depends on how much effort each individual is ready to put in.

• Dhanraj, Kasargod, Kerala

What is your full name and who was your best friend in school?

My full name is Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam.

During my school days Pakshi Ramanatha Sastry was my best friend.

• Deepti, Mumbai

Which was the happiest moment of your life?

One day an orthopedic surgeon from Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences visited my laboratory. He lifted the material we had developed for missile system and found it so light. He took me to his hospital and showed me his patients. There were these little girls and boys with heavy metallic calipers weighing over three kilograms each. Those children had suffered from Polio attack. The children were dragging their feet around. My friend, the Orthopedic Surgeon said to me, "Please remove the pain of my patients."

In three weeks, we made these Calipers (Floor Reaction Orthosis) which weighed just 300 grams and took them to the orthopedic center. The children did not believe their eyes. From dragging around a three kilogram load on their legs, with just 300 gram calipers they could now move around. Their parents had tears in their eyes. It was a blissful sight.

• B. Pritika, Tirupur

Why do you have this hairstyle?

The hair grows.

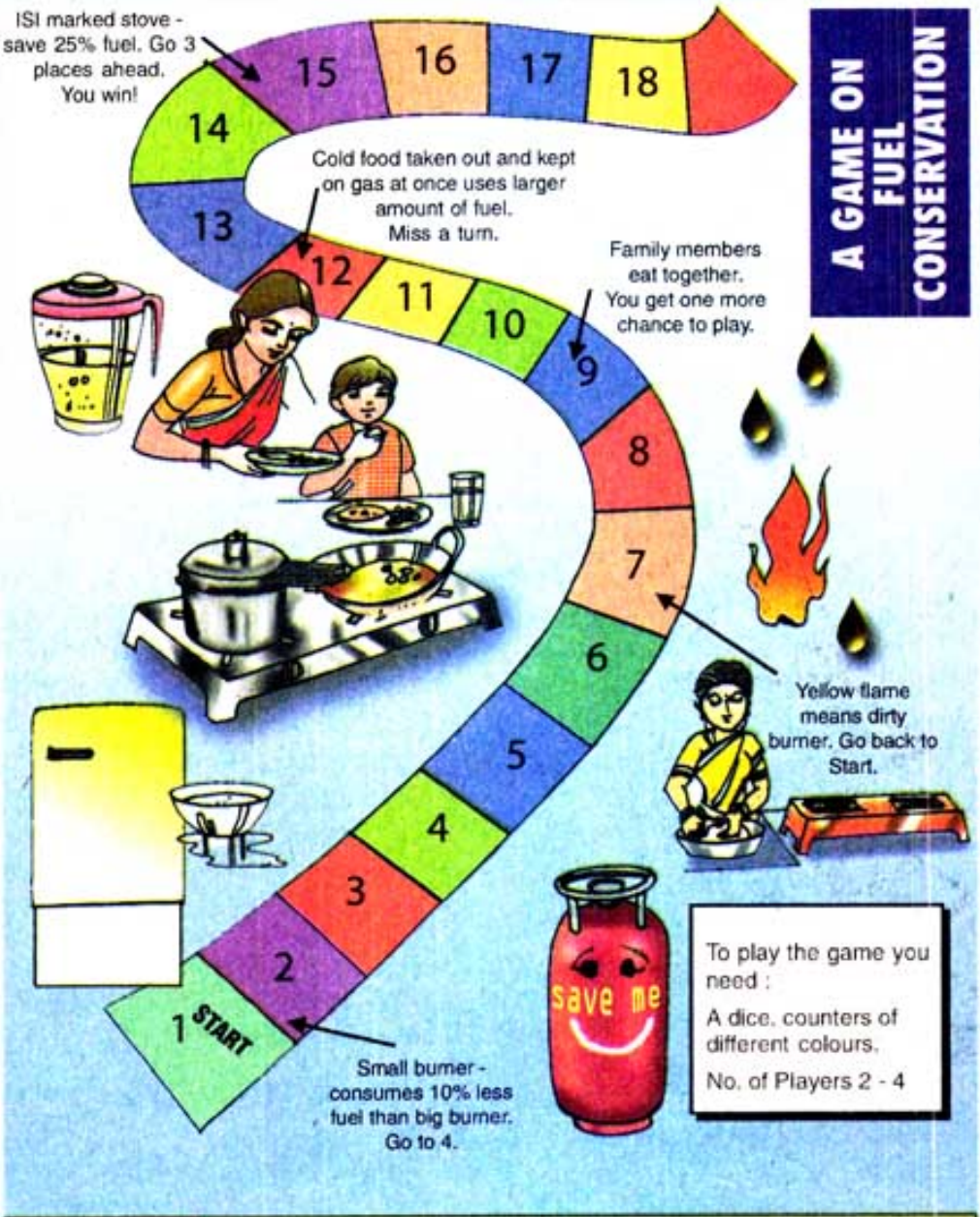
• Lipsa Hebram, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa

Should a person fulfill her own dreams or the expectations others have from her?

Fulfilling his or her own dreams has to be one's goal in life. One should do what one likes to do.

Pictures courtesy : K.V.Venkatakrishnan and Media Ramu

A GAME ON FUEL CONSERVATION



To play the game you need :

A dice, counters of different colours.

No. of Players 2 - 4

DO YOU KNOW?

75% of the earth is water. But most of it is not potable.

Still would you let it go waste ?

Children,
Be an active participant in PCRA's conservation mission.
Remember, conservation leads to a beautiful tomorrow.
Write a slogan on Water Conservation and win free book

I save water because _____

Name : _____ Age : _____
School : _____
Class _____
Address : _____
Ph : _____

PETROLEUM CONSERVATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
13, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
E-mail : pcra@pcra.org Visit us at : www.pcra.org

Name : **S. Varun Karthik**

Age : 16

Address : No. 59, 'Shivanugraha', SA Reddy Layout, D. Banaswadi, Bangalore - 560 043

Hobbies : Reading novels, listening to music, playing on computer, making friends.

Name : **Shyma Sasidharan**

Age : 12

Address : 46/48 Ramalingam Colony, Coimbatore - 641 043

Hobbies : Reading books, playing badminton and basket ball, collecting coins and stamps, drawing, painting, listening to music, reading general knowledge books, stitching, cycling, collecting stickers.

Name : **R. Arjun**

Age : 15

Address : No.21/48, IInd street, Ashtalakshmi Nagar, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 600 087

Hobbies : Singing, drawing, reading, playing cricket, writing essays and articles.

Name : **Ashwin R.**

Age : 12

Address : No.21/48, IInd street, Ashtalakshmi Nagar, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 600 087

Hobbies : Playing chess and cricket, singing, reading books and collecting information on cars.

Name : **L.Neeraja**

Age : 13

Address :2/8B 1st Cross, Teacher's Colony, Bagalur Road, Hosur - 633 126

Hobbies : Drawing, painting, singing and reading story books.

Name : **Suraj Hebbar**

Age : 11

Address : Qtr. No 83/8, Harish Barracks, Artillery Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore - 560 008

Hobbies : Collecting stamps, watching television, reading books, playing chess and singing.

LET'S BE PEN-FRIENDLY!

Name : **R. Kashifa**

Age : 11

Address : No. 125, Kamaraj St, Villupuram - 605 602.

Hobbies : Reading books, drawing, chatting with friends and playing computer games.

Name : **S. Hema**

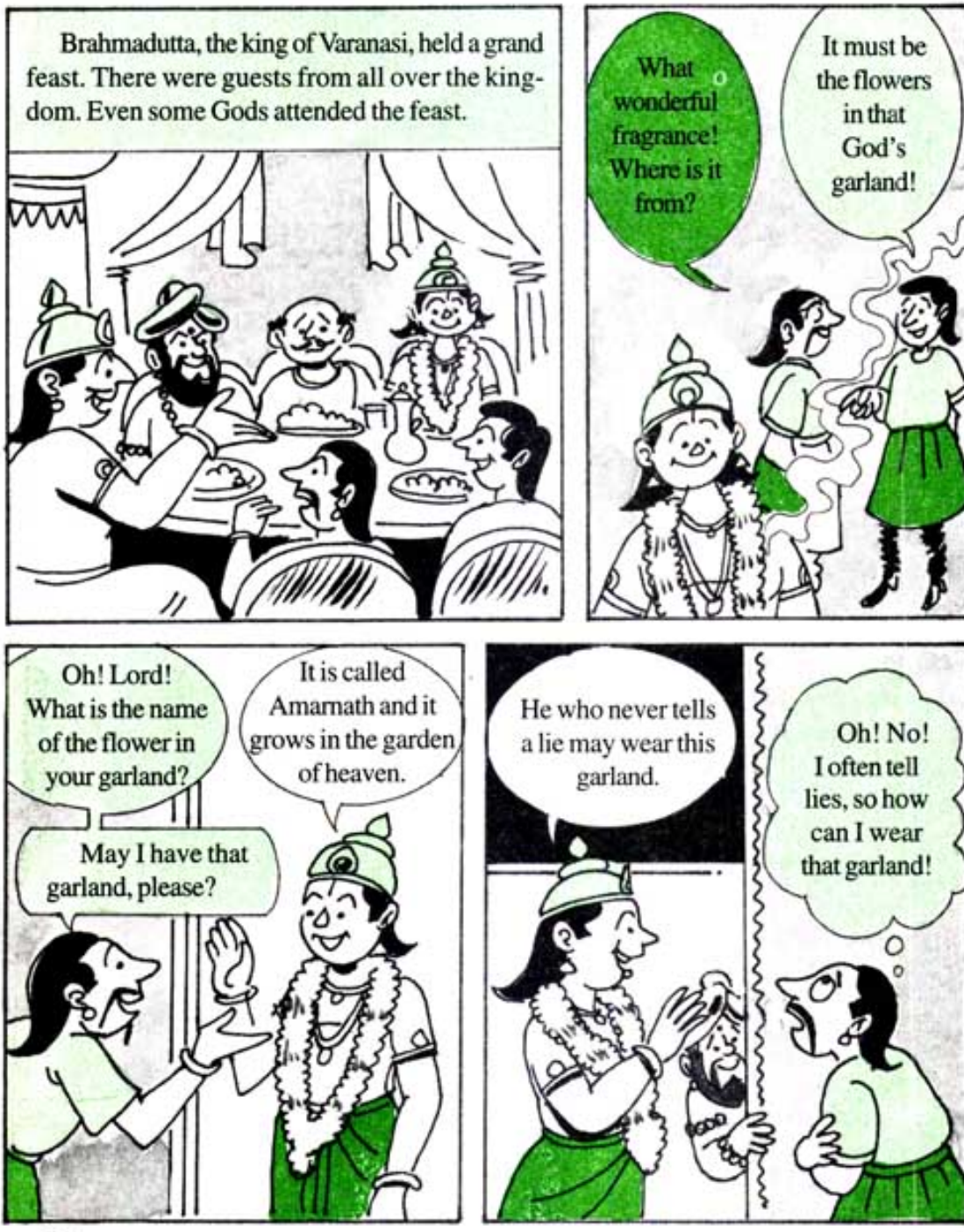
Age : 11

Address : A-108, Premier Grihalakshmi Apts. Elango Nagar, Virugambakkam, Chennai - 600 092

Hobbies : Listening to songs, reading, playing badminton, watching television.

THE LIAR

A Jataka Tale retold by : KAMALIKA GHOSH Std. VII, GD Birla Centre for Education, Kolkata
Illustrations by Pillai



The royal priest overheard the conversation and...
If I tell the God that I never lie, he will give me that garland.
I have never uttered lies. May I have that garland, please?
The God smiled. He saw through the priest but decided to teach him a lesson and so gave him the garland.
Help! Help! I'm having chest pain. I am feeling faint. Help! Help!
The king came there on hearing the noise.
How did you suddenly take ill?
As soon as I wore this garland, I fell ill.
The king prayed to the God to cure the priest. At once...
This man is not fit to wear this garland. He is a liar, that's why he suffered badly. Let him take off the garland and he will be cured.
Forgive me. I will never tell a lie again.

MYSTERY OF THE MISSING KEY!

Once when I was much younger, as I was returning home from school riding my bicycle, I suddenly thought that I had lost my cycle key! I stopped and searched for the key frantically in my pocket, in my bag, and even on the road, but to no avail. I came home crying and told my mother that I'd lost my cycle key. My mother laughed heartily! Then she asked me as to how I could have cycled home without unlocking the cycle! Then, I realised that the key had been in the lock of my bicycle all along!

- K.Vasantha Std X
KVCRPF Avadi

A regret!

This incident happened when I was in the IVth std. I was at a performance by dolphins at the Dolphin City near Chennai. In one of the items, the dolphin was to pull a rubber boat with the help of a rope which was at-

tached to a ring. The Dolphin would put its head in the ring and pull the boat seating two children. The host asked me to get into the boat but I was too scared.

So, two other children were taken for a ride around the pool. Seeing them enjoying their ride, I realised my folly but it was too late. I had missed a wonderful opportunity which I will always regret.

- Nehal Kedia Std. IX
Jaigopal Garodia School, Chennai

For the love of coconuts!

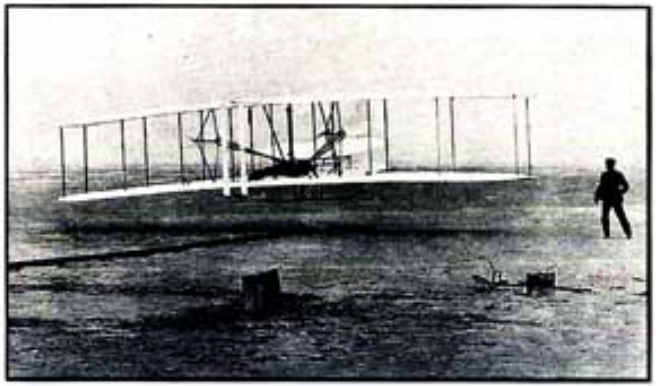
I loved to munch juicy coconuts! When I was about nine years old, I had gone on a visit to my native place Chikmagalur. There, my aunt who knew my weakness, gave me lots of juicy coconut pieces! I started eating them with relish. Suddenly, I found a hard piece in my mouth which I couldn't bite into. On taking that piece out I found to my surprise that one of my teeth had fallen!

My aunt and uncle started laughing heartily on seeing my face! Even today, they keep reminding me of that incident and never forget to offer me pieces of coconut either!

-S.M. Jayashree Age 17, MES College, Bangalore.

(Illustration: **Kadiravan**)

Special Puzzle

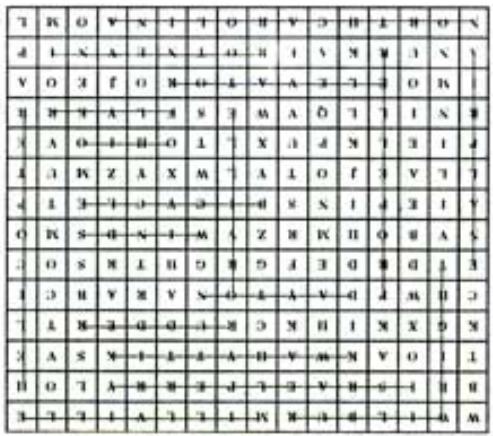


W	W	I	L	B	U	R	M	I	L	L	V	I	L	L	E
B	R	I	S	R	A	E	L	P	E	R	R	Y	L	O	H
T	I	O	A	K	W	A	H	Y	T	T	I	K	S	V	E
K	G	X	K	I	H	K	C	R	U	D	D	E	R	T	L
C	H	W	P	D	A	Y	T	O	N	A	R	A	B	C	I
E	T	D	R	D	E	F	G	R	G	H	T	R	S	O	C
N	V	B	O	H	M	R	Z	V	W	I	N	D	S	M	O
A	I	E	P	I	N	S	B	I	C	Y	C	L	E	T	P
L	L	A	E	J	O	T	Y	L	W	X	Y	Z	M	U	T
P	I	E	L	K	P	U	X	L	T	O	H	I	O	V	E
R	N	I	L	L	Q	V	W	E	S	F	L	Y	E	R	R
I	M	O	E	L	E	V	A	T	O	R	O	J	E	O	A
A	N	U	R	K	A	E	R	O	T	N	E	V	N	I	P
N	O	R	T	H	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	A	O	M	L

Find out 17 different words hidden in the puzzle which are related to the Wright Brothers and aviation.

DO IT 'WRIGHT!

Answers



Story

A SURPRISE FOR RENU

"Ma! Ma! Where are you?" shouted Renu coming in from school. Renu was a cute and plump girl studying in the eighth standard. But, in spite of the fact that she was thirteen years old, she was quite childish in nature.

"Ma!Ma!," she kept screaming. Her mother came out of the kitchen with a spatula in hand. "What happened? Why are you screaming like that Renu?" she asked mildly.

"Ma, I have some interesting news for you. What are you doing in the kitchen?" asked Renu.

"I was busy preparing hot dosas for you," replied her mother.

"Wow!Hot crispy dosas!", said Renu joyfully for she loved dosas. She went to her room and quickly washed and changed and came back soon to the dining table. Her mother was ready with the dosas for her and she started eating them with relish.

"What is the news you so badly wanted to tell me?" asked mother.

"Oh! Yes! Ma, our science club class is going to Maanmoli for a week's tour. Would you send me too? Please, Ma," Renu wheedled.

"You can utilize those days on study,Renu" began Mother. But seeing Renu's woe- begone face, she hastily said, "But as you are so insistent you can go!"

"Yeah!!," shouted Renu, "You are the best Mother in the world!" She hugged her mother joyfully.

Renu went to her room and started packing all the clothes she would require

for the trip.

The next day she was going to call up her friend Divya to talk about the trip when she heard her mother coughing in the next room. "Ma! What happened to you?" she cried when she saw her mother lying down and doctor Aunty doing a check-up.

Doctor Aunty told Renu to calm down. She said that her mother had not been feeling well for some time and now it has been diagnosed as typhoid.

Renu was horrified when she heard this. She remembered that her class tour was scheduled for the next day. There was an unreasonable anger towards her mother.

"Why did she have to fall ill just now? She could have fallen sick after I came back from the tour," she ranted unreasonably, storming into the hall. Doctor Aunty followed her and tried to console her. "Do you know Renu, when you fell ill, your mother used to sit beside you and care for you forgetting all else? Now, please behave yourself and help your mother recover fast."

Renu got over her intense dissappointment. She took leave from school and helped her mother with the housework and took care of her too.

A week later her friend Divya came to her house. "Why didn't you give your name for the tour?" she enquired of Renu. Renu told her all that had happened. At this Divya said, "You know, you are very lucky indeed! Due to some reason our tour was postponed and it has been re-scheduled for the day after tomorrow!"

"Wow! I can't believe it. Is it true?" exclaimed Renu in joy.

"Ofcourse its true and get ready to join the gang!" said Divya as she left. Renu told her mother about the re-scheduled tour. Mother said, "You have been a good girl Renu, taking such good care of me. You deserve this luck."

"Yes, Mother. Now I know why we should obey our parents. Such opportunities are given to good children only," said Renu remembering the shameful way in which she had behaved on hearing that she would have to miss her trip due to her mother's illness.

"What are you saying, Renu?" asked Mother puzzled at the look on her face.

"Nothing Maa..." said Renu.

From that day onwards Renu changed into an obedient and affectionate girl with love and respect towards every one.

- Aiswarya Nair
Std. VIII
Fatima High School, Mumbai

ART GALLERY

S.N. Vikas Vineeth
Std. III
Narbada Devi Memorial School,
Bellary

V.Sankreethya
Std. X
Geeta High School, Secunderabad

Pranav M.Nair
Std. VI
Sishya school, Hosur

J.Amudh Raj, Std. XII
K.V.I.I.T., Chennai

Swati Joshi, Std. IX
S.D.M.T.P.P. School, Orissa

V.Karthick, Std. V
Venkatalakshmi M.H.S.S.
Coimbatore.

• **Deepa Ranganathan, Jamshedpur**

? Why do we vomit? Is it natural to Vomit?

! Vomiting is a reflex act by which the contents of the stomach are emptied through the mouth. It is a self-protecting process. It may result from a wide variety of causes. Any stimulation or irritation in the throat can cause vomiting. Diseases like ulcer in the stomach or duodenum, irritants like toxic foods, drugs, alcohol, poison, overeating etc., and any infection, inflammation or obstruction in the abdomen like jaundice, appendicitis, stomach cancer etc., can cause vomiting. Brain disorders like brain fever, migraine and ear disorders can also cause vomiting.

• **Sai Deepak,Chittoor**

? What is stomach ulcer? How is it formed and what are the preventive measures?

! Stomach ulcer is a wound caused by the destruction of the inner wall of the stomach. The stomach produces the gastric juices of which the most important is an acid called hydrochloric acid and an enzyme called pepsin for digestion of food. Normally, the secretions of the inner wall of the stomach protects it from the effect of these juices. Sometimes the stomach secretes the acid in more than normal quantity. The powerful acid eats the mucosal lining of the inner wall of the stomach producing a wound.

Prevention: Persons having ulcers should avoid all fried foods, spicy foods, fatty foods, fizzy drinks, curry, strong coffee or tea, alcohol, smoking, tobacco chewing, stress, anxiety and certain drugs like aspirin, steroids, pain killers etc. Further they should develop good eating habits. For example, don't be in a hurry while eating; eat slowly; eat only when hungry; try to have regular meals; don't eat while you are worrying over something. Curry, hurry and worry are the three friends of a stomach ulcer; avoid them.

SAY NO TO BAD BREATH!

• **M.Abilash, Chennai**

? My mouth smells very bad. What could be the reason?

! Inflammation

of gums, dental abscess, food trapped between teeth, coated tongue and mouth infections are the main causes for bad breath. A dry mouth and dehydration can predispose a person to bad breath. In children, infection in the nose and paranasal sinuses and neglected foreign bodies in the nose such as peanuts are the most common causes for foul breath. Long lasting infections of the throat, lungs, and liver may produce a putrid odour. Indigestion, hyperacidity and stomach ulcer can also cause bad breath. In most cases, excellent oral hygiene with good dental and gum care can help eliminate bad odour of the mouth. In your case, you have to consult your family doctor to find out the cause and get the treatment accordingly.

• D.AjayAnand, Kalpakkam

? If the gall bladder is removed, how will it affect the digestive system?

! Nothing untoward will happen if the gall bladder is removed. It will not in any way affect the digestion of food. The gallbladder is a storehouse of the bile, which is secreted by the liver. After the removal of the gallbladder, the bile directly reaches the upper part of the small intestine and helps digestion as usual.

• S.Aarti, Trivandrum

? Why should we not take bath immediately after having food?

! After having food, the digestive system starts functioning to digest the food materials. So the brain orders more blood to be sent to the digestive organs of our body for quick and easy digestion. If you take a bath at that time the muscles

need more blood to perform the act of bathing. Hence the blood circulating in the digestive system now moves to the muscles. It affects the blood supply to the digestive system. As a result, you may have a poor digestion.

• Ankit Mishra, Orissa

? What kind of diet should children suffering from jaundice eat?

! Foods with a moderate protein content such as cereals, rice, biscuits, bread, idly, idiappam and porridge can be given. Fruits like apple, oranges, grapes, pineapple etc., fruit juices, vegetables and vegetable soups, sugarcane juice, honey and glucose can also be added. Fat rich foods such as eggs, meat, milk, fish and poultry, oily foods like dosa, poori, parathas etc., and snacks like ice cream, pizza etc., should be avoided.

More on the same topic next month...

1st PRIZE
Rs. 500/-
goes to
B.A.Nikhila of
Std.VIII
Sri Kumaran
Children's Home
Bangalore

THE PORTKEY

"Mr. Weasley, would you please stop playing with the telescope and give others a turn at it?" snapped Professor Sinistra.

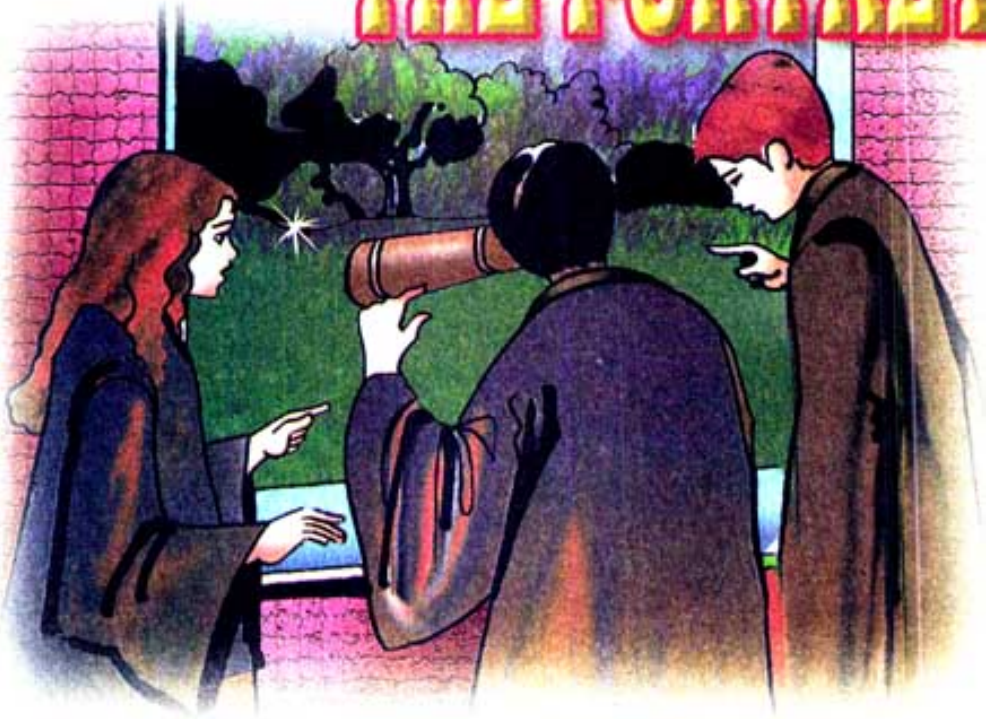
The Gryffindor Fifth years, had just finished their homeworks and had assembled on top of the Astronomy Tower for a rare view of the planet ISIS.

Scowling, Ron handed the telescope to Harry. Harry looked through the telescope and held his breath. The planet Isis was a spectacular sight. He was about to move when something caught his eye.

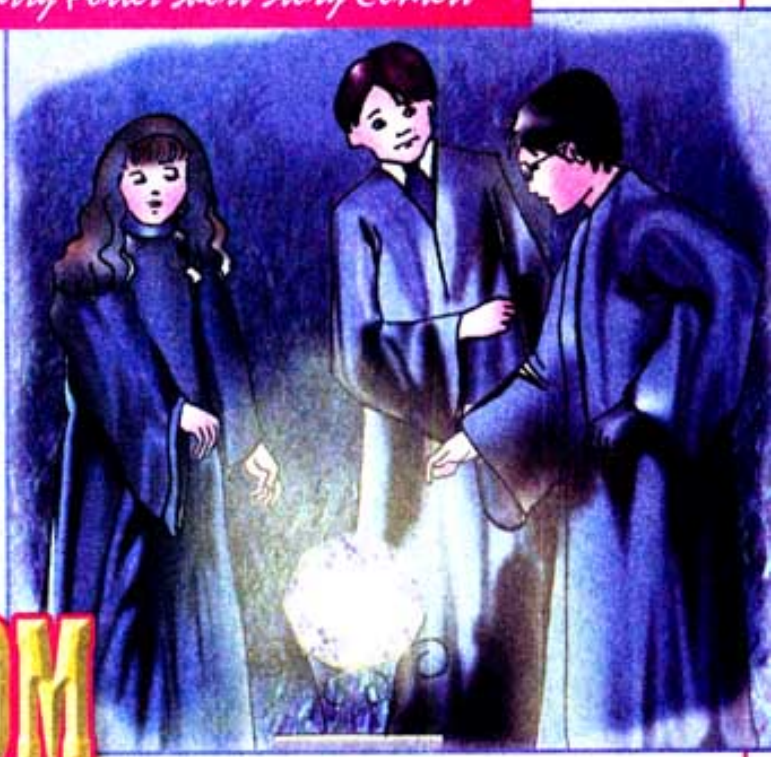
He focussed the telescope on the Forbidden Forest and almost gasped out aloud. He saw a strange light, glowing softly in the forest.

He was wondering about it, when, Professor Sinistra interrupted his thoughts by screaming in his ear, "Mr. Potter, just what do you think you're doing?" Harry jumped and turned around to see Professor Sinistra glaring at him.

He muttered an apology and went towards Ron and Hermione, who were looking at him, curiously.



OF DOOM



"What's the matter, Harry" asked Ron.

"I've got to tell you something" Harry whispered back.

"That's it for today, class! Home work, two rolls of parchment about this planet. To be submitted next week," said Professor Sinistra.

Every body went down the stairs, talking excitedly. Harry stayed behind.

"Aren't you coming, Harry?" asked Hermione.

"Not yet. Listen."

Harry told them about the mysterious light.

He peered at it again, through the telescope.

"Let me see it, Harry," said Ron.

"Oh, give it here" said Hermione and looked through the telescope. She gasped loudly.

"What can it be, Harry?" she whispered.

"I don't know. But I'm going to find out right now!"

"Now?" Hermione almost shrieked.

"Yes! What if it's something bad out there? What if it's Voldemort? Everybody knows now that he is back," yelled Harry.

"Will - you- stop - saying - his - name?" hissed Ron. Harry ignored him.

"I'm not going to wait till he attacks us," he said fiercely. "I'm going to face him now."

Harry ran down the steps. Ron and Hermione went behind him, having no other option.

"Oh! Harry! Don't you know, nobody can apparate inside Hogwarts. It's bewitched, you know," said Hermione, nervously.

Harry did not take any notice of her remarks.

KVIZ KRACKER

1. If a cartographer's work is to study and draw maps, what does a lexicographer do?

2. Collecting stamps is called philately. What is the practice of collecting coins called?

3. What is the country you are visiting if you are staying in the capital Warsaw?

4. What is the world's largest selling biscuit? (Clue : It's an Indian biscuit, ji!)

5. What do the letters MGM in cartoons stand for? (Clue: If you don't know, see Tom and Jerry properly!)

- Naveena
Chennai

Answers:-
1. Writes dictionaries
2. Numismatics
3. Poland
4. Parle-G
5. Metro Goldwyn Mayer

They stopped at the edge of the forest.

"Hold hands, both of you. We don't want to get separated." Harry's voice shook as he spoke.

Ron could only moan in reply.

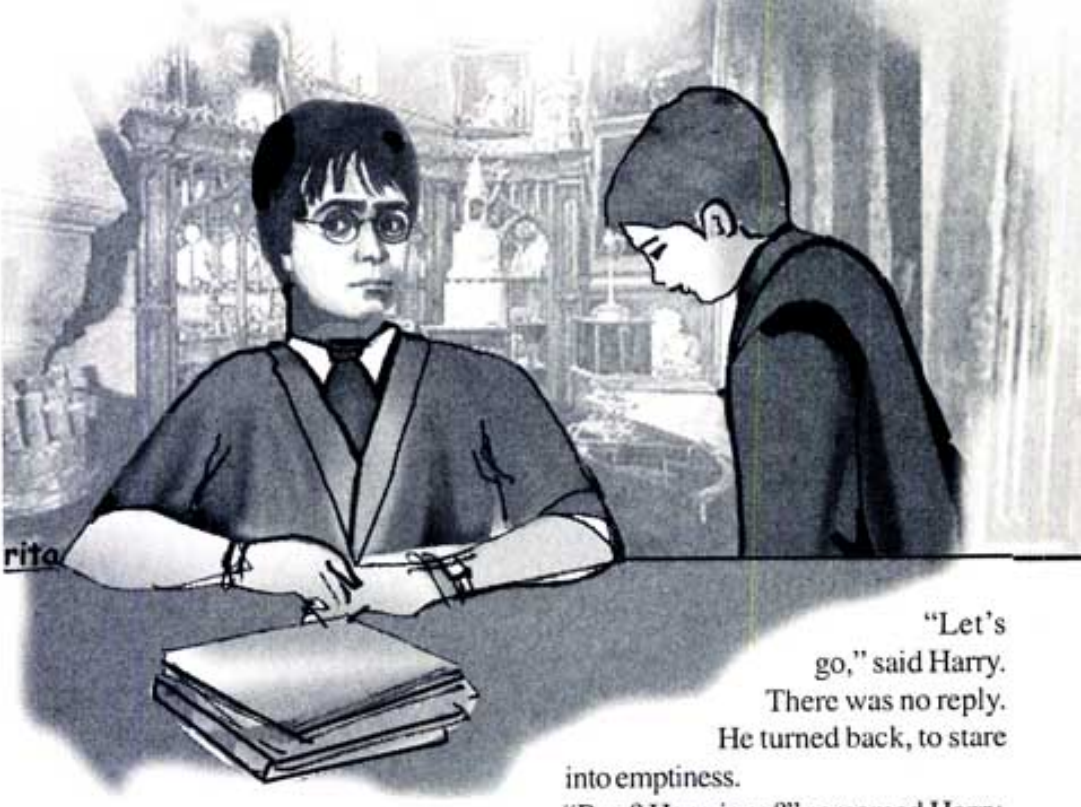
Slowly, they made their way through the huge trees, jumping at every small sound, trying and failing to feel brave. Without warning, they came upon the source of the strange light. It was a crystal, glowing brightly, lying on the ground.

Astonished beyond words, they made their way towards it. Harry put out his hand, as if to touch it.

"Don't," screamed Hermione.

But Harry was not paying attention. He touched it gently with his finger.

Instantly, Harry felt a jerk, somewhere beneath his navel. His feet left the ground and he saw the crystal pulling him forward in a howl of wind and swirling colours. He could feel Ron and Herminone dangling behind him. With a shock, Harry realised that the crystal was a portkey.



"Let's go," said Harry. There was no reply. He turned back, to stare into emptiness.

"Ron? Hermione?" screamed Harry, panicking.

Suddenly, Harry saw... him. Lord Voldemort. He looked tall and menacing. Harry screamed and tried to get away.

Voldemort's hands were on Harry's neck, trying to strangle him. Harry's head felt like exploding. The pain from his scar was unbearable.

Everything was turning black...

Harry fainted...

Suddenly, Harry found himself on the ground, with Ron and Hermione next to him.

"Where are we?" he asked, sitting up.

"We're in some kind of a creepy hallway," said Ron, looking around.

At this, Hermione gasped loudly.

"What's wrong?" asked both Harry and Ron.

"It all makes sense now. That was no ordinary Portkey, Harry. That was the Portkey of Doom! I read about it in a book. This Portkey takes you to a hallway, where you come face to face with your worst fears. It is called the Hallway of Horrors."

"What?" yelled Harry in alarm.

A sound, which came from some where ahead, made them jump.

Harry felt someone shaking him roughly.

He opened his eyes.

"Where am I? What happened?" he asked groggily.

"Nothing," said Ron, grinning. "You fell asleep in the common room, after finishing your homework... Now, hurry. We have Astronomy class next..." ●

BEFORE SHERLOCK HOLMES

It was good to read about Arthur Conon Doyle in the Nov. 03 issue of Gokulam. At a time when the Harry Potter mania is holding sway over the impressionable minds of the youngsters (which in my humble opinion is not a healthy sign as the stories are most improbable and there is undue stress on witchery). It is quite refreshing to see Conon Doyle being remembered.

It will be of interest to know that 221-B, Baker St.London is not a fictional address. It houses the 'Sherlock Holmes Society' which is stated to be still receiving letters with problems to be solved and meticulously being answered!

The method of swift deduction by keen observation is the oldest and most natural in the world. Perhaps we may safely assume Hanuman to be the first of such kind.

Hanuman first saw Sita at Ashoka Vanam. He had no means of recognising her other than using his wits. He keenly observed her and found a part of her saree torn, the part which Sita had used to bundle her jewels and thrown it down on the Risyamookha hills while being abducted by Ravana. Through this observation among the others, he recognised Sita.

Around the year 1748, Voltaire had written about one Zadig who was a very keen observer.

Zadig was imprisoned by the king on charges of stealing the royal dog and horse. He had observed the tracks of both the animals on the sand and had also noticed the marks of the horse on trees and a stone. When he mentioned these, he was mistaken to be the thief and arrested. But eventually the animals were found and he was freed. The Judges were stunned by Zadig's power of observation!

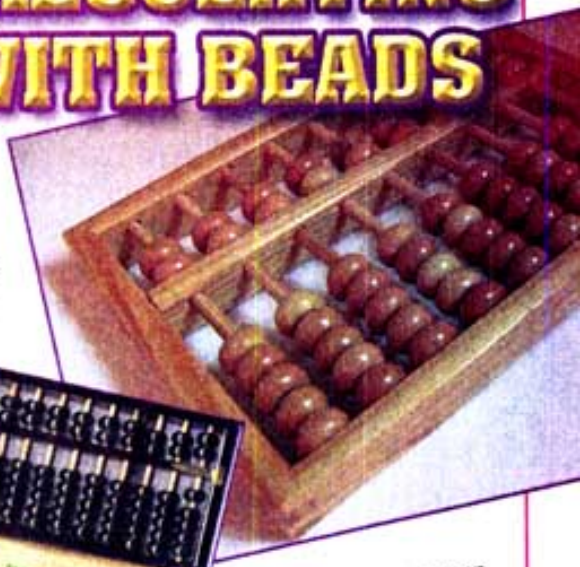
-T.M.Sundararaman
Chennai

A Report by Shashi

CALCULATING WITH BEADS

Do you remember seeing your grandmother doing quick calculations in the mind for paying the dhobi, vegetable vendors, flower sellers, or at the provision stores? Well! That was a kind of mental arithmetic they used even though they would have studied hardly up to the 5th standard!

Now, the kind of mental math being practiced involves using the Abacus as a tool.



• chinese abacus

The person operating the Abacus performs calculations in his head and uses the Abacus to keep track of the sums, carrys etc. The device evolved from a simple need to count numbers.Merchants trading in goods not only needed a way to count goods bought and sold but also to calculate the cost of these goods.

The concept of Mental Arithmetic has recently gained immense popularity in India. A number of Abacus Institutes have come up. They have their origins in Japan or Malaysia.

Let's talk to some of them to find out what exactly Abacus has to do with Mental Arithmetic.

"Mental Arithmetic is only a tool to increase the overall concentration and analytical ability of children," says Mr.Kumaran , M.D. and Chairman of the ALOHA Institute.

"It also helps children with learning disabilities. It improves the overall cognitive functions of children."

Sowmya, a twelve year old girl says, "We use a technique called the Finger Math in which the ten fingers of the hand represent numbers from 1 to 99. Using only the ten fingers we are taught to do

high-speed calculations even before learning with the Abacus! It's all very interesting."

Krishna Sai, a fifteen-year-old boy says, "I am in the Ninth Standard. I have gained good speed and accuracy in all my basic calculations and hence I'm able to concentrate on more complicated mathematical problems.

"We are following the Japanese method of Mental Arithmetic," says Mr.Giri, M.D. and Chairman SEMAS Institute. "We don't have any age restrictions. Higher levels of mathematical calculations are possible with abacus. For example, instead of using logarithm tables at a higher class, children can do the calculations just by using the abacus!"

Deepak, a five-year-old boy says, "I can even do multiplications on the Abacus! It's very easy!"

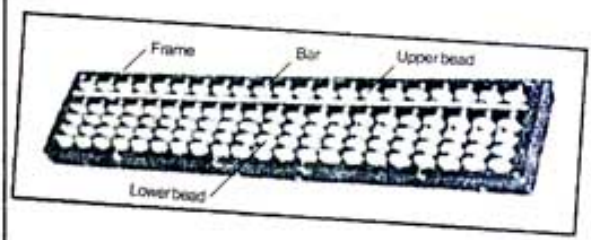
"We use the Abacus as a tool for overall development of the child," says, Mr.Basheer Ahmed, M.D. and Chairman U.C.MAS."It not only improves their mathematical abilities but also their concentration and visualization abilities. We conduct nation wide competitions for children every year."

Srivas, a twelve-year-old boy says, "It is quite good but sometimes I get confused! The speed with which we do the calculations sometimes becomes too much for me!"

Anjana, a ten-year-old girl says, "I do the school sums also by Abacus method but as we are not allowed to take the Abacus to school, I visualize the abacus in my mind and do the calculations!"

DID YOU KNOW?

- Abacus as we know it now, originated in Greece and Rome in 300 A.D. as counting beads.
- Early Christian missionaries took it to the East.

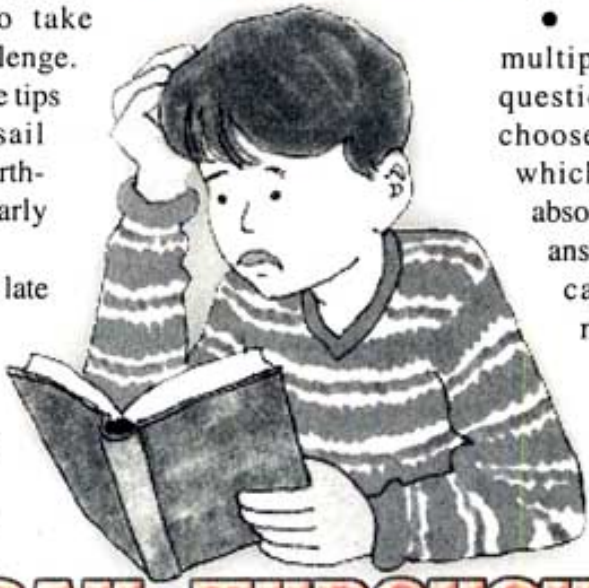


- *Each upper bead starting from the right, represents 5;50;500 and so on.*
- *Starting from the right each lower bead represents 1;10;100 and so on.*
- *The upper and lower bead represent a value only on touching the bar.*

- It appeared in China in 1200 A.D. and was called *Suan-Pan*.
- It appeared in Japan in 1600 A.D. as *Soro-Ban*.
- Persian Abacus was invented in the 17th Century and came to be known as *Schofy*.
- Abacus was made of wood, stone or metal, having a frame that holds rods with freely sliding beads, pebbles or metal discs.
- Even now shop keepers in China use the Abacus for their calculations.
- As counting using written numbers gained popularity, the use of Abacus declined in Europe.

Article

SAIL THROUGH EXAMS!



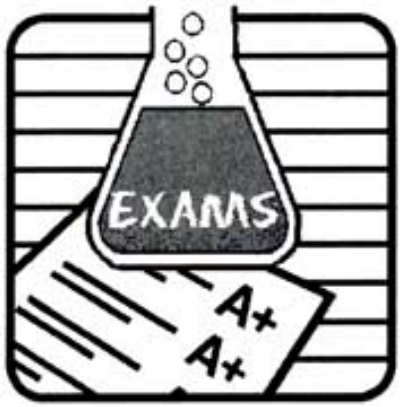
Exams are intended only to assess your knowledge; so take them as a challenge. Go through these tips and you'll sail through your forthcoming half yearly examinations!

- Don't study late on the eve of the examination. Early to bed and early to rise!
- Finish studying everything earlier and only revise on the eve of the exam.
- Pack the necessary items the day before the exam itself.
- Always have a checklist of the things you have to take.
- Always be at the examination hall atleast 10 minutes before the exam begins.
- Don't panic at the first glance of the question paper. Tackle each question one by one.
- Answer the questions from the easiest to the toughest, so that you have time to think and answer the tough ones.
- In case of multiple choice questions, always choose the ones for which you are absolutely sure of the answers and which can get you maximum marks.
- In case you are hung up half way through with an answer at the end, always try to complete it with a proper conclusion.
- Make sure your paper is presentable with neatly drawn diagrams and a neat handwriting.

Most important of all, once the day's exam is over, concentrate only on the next day's exam. Don't waste time pondering over the question paper and cross checking.

Be prepared for the worst but hope for the best!

Good Luck in your exams!



- J. Arvind Motha
Chennai

A PICTURESQUE ISLAND

The Andaman and Nicobar are a group of 572 picturesque Islands, big and small, inhabited and uninhabited, located in the South Eastern part of the Bay of Bengal.

I had the opportunity to visit these Islands.

The Journey from Chennai to Port Blair by sea was enjoyable and the voyage took us about 50 to 60 hours.

We visited many places in and around Port Blair. But, probably the most famous of them all is the 'Cellular

Jail'. During the British Raj, many political leaders of India and other dreaded criminals were deported to the Cellular Jail in Andamans. These Islands were hence infamously known as 'kala pani', or 'Black water prison.' The stories of the hardships faced by our great leaders there is very touching. The museum houses specimens of the clothes worn by great leaders and various photographs. This monument has now been dedicated to the nation as a National Memorial.

Among the islands, Ross Island is the most beautiful. It was also a part of the cellular jail but it is now a tourist spot. There are various other islands and beaches to visit using ferry boats.

Cutting timber is a major occupation of the people of Andamans. Timber and bamboo are found in plenty. The tropical rain forest is home to a variety of animals.

There are five primitive tribal groups who have been identified in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. They are - (1) Great Andamanese of Strait island

2) Onges of Little Andaman

3) Jarawas of South and Middle Andaman

4) Sentinelese of Sentinel Islands

5) Shompen of Great Nicobar

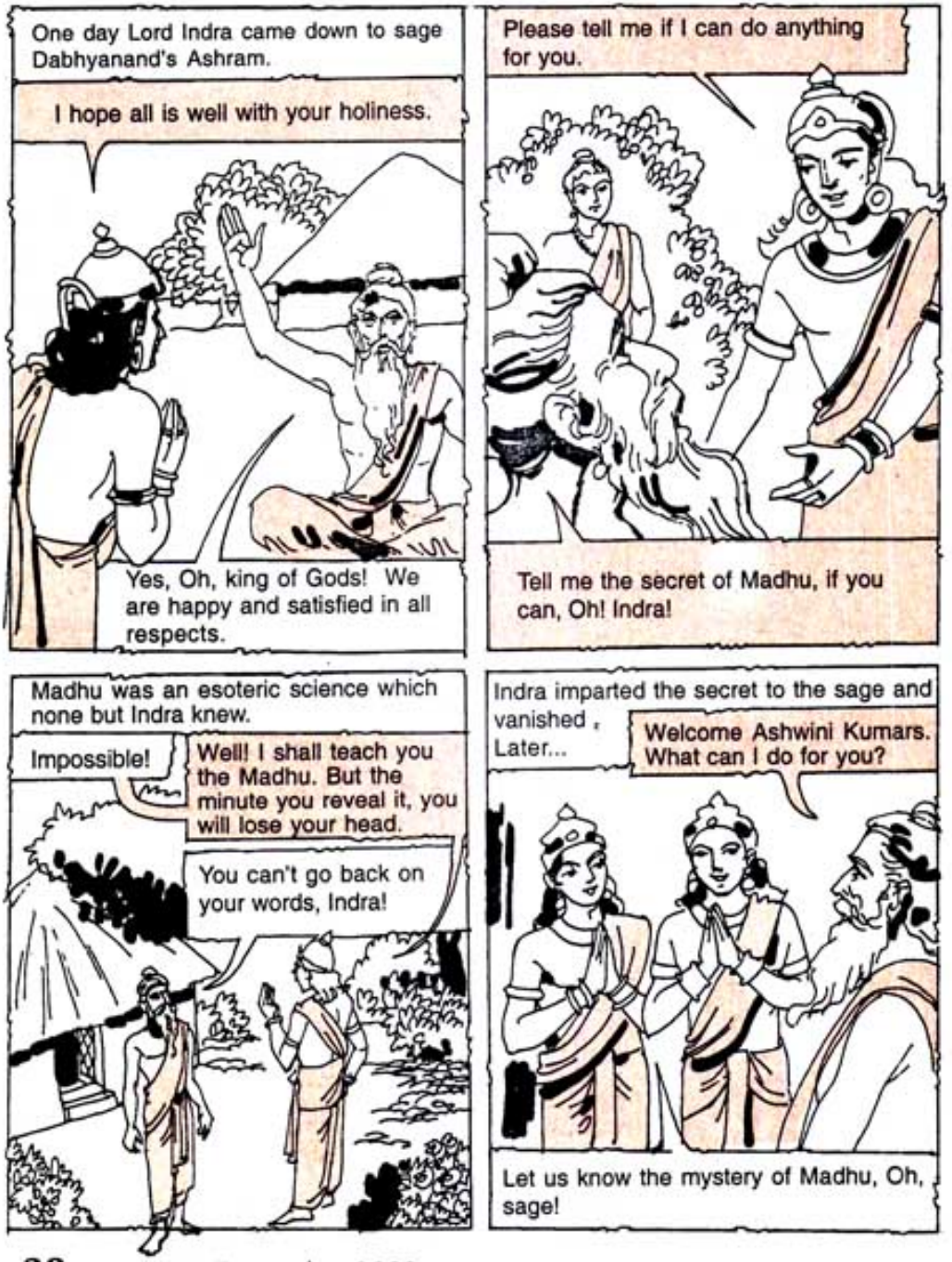
I enjoyed my trip to the Andamans so much that I was very disappointed when it was time to leave. Andamans is indeed a heaven on earth!

- S. Sivabala
Std X,
St.James Mat.H.S.S.
Trichy

THE HORSE HEADED SAGE

Mythology Story by : M.Pradyumnan
St. VIII
Kumbakonam

Illustrations : Lalitha



No, I cannot reveal it. If I did, my head will roll off my body.
We will graft the head of a horse on to you. Thus, it will be the horse's mouth which will reveal the Madhu's secret. Even if Indra beheads you, we'll replace your own head.
Thus, persuaded the sage imparted the secret of Madhu to the Ashwini Kumars.
When the wrathful Indra beheaded the sage, the twin gods promptly replaced the sage's own head. Enriched with the new knowledge of Madhu, the two Ashwini Kumars left the hermitage happily.

SUPERSONIC AIRC

THE CONCO

GOKULAM

DECEMBER 2003

MAKING DISCOVERIES!

Ever dreamt of discovering a cure for a deadly disease...or a pollution free environment thanks to an alternative form of fuel you invented? Biotechnology offers you a unique opportunity to work in a new field of your choice.

What is biotechnology?

Biotechnology is an interdisciplinary science that includes not only biology but also subjects like physics, chemistry, engineering etc. It is a rapidly growing field that finds application in every aspect of life, from chemical, industrial, pharmaceutical and textile industries to genetics and agriculture.

Career Opportunities

A biotechnologist can make a mark in,

- Adding to the variety of fruits and vegetables in the market shelves - by developing new hybrid varieties through crossing different breeds.
- Giving hope to those struck with a disease that has been labeled as incurable – by developing various medicines and vaccines.
- By working on genes to alter reproduction and heredity processes.
- Bring a smile on the face of farmers – by overcoming soil problems, crop diseases etc.
- Ensuring a cleaner environment – by introducing methods to check

pollution, clearing industrial waste etc.

Skills and abilities required

Biotechnology primarily involves research with plant and animal tissues. Cross-reference with the researches done by others all over the world is something you will have to keep yourself updated with. A creative bent of mind is required to a certain extent.

A great degree of patience and perseverance is required, as experiments may not yield the results you are looking for immediately or ever. On the flip side, a research that is successful could make you famous and give you that break!

Entry into the field

Biologists, chemists and physicians who work in companies usually are Ph.D's or hold an M.D degree. They plan the research process and draft the process steps. Scientists who are BS or MS degree holders usually carry out the day-to-day research in the laboratories.

+2 or equivalent with Biology / Maths, Physics and chemistry is required to pursue a B. Sc. or B. Tech in Biotechnology. At the postgraduate level, one can do M.Sc. or M.Tech.

Institutes and courses

There are various universities that offer these programmes. The Jawaharlal Nehru University at various centres in the country conducts a combined biotechnology entrance exam.

Growth Prospects

Biotechnology is a rapidly growing field with significant advances being made through research and development and India with its IT and scientific manpower has what it takes to be successful in this field.

Biotechnology is an emerging field today that seeks to provide for a better tomorrow.

Next Month : MERCHANT NAVY

Feedback to

gokulam @ careersindia.com

DID YOU KNOW?

- An old wives' tale says that bread baked on Christmas Eve will never go mouldy!

- Christmas pudding was first made as a kind of soup with raisins in it.

- The turkey was imported to France by the Jesuits and it is still known in some French dialects as a 'Jesuite'.

- December 25th was not celebrated as the birthday of Christ until the year AD 440.

- It wasn't until about 200 years after Christ's death that Christians even thought about celebrating his birth.

- In 1843, the first Christmas card was created on the instuctions of an Englishman, Sir Henry Cole. J.C.Horsley designed the card and sold 1000 copies in London.

- In the nineteenth century, the British Post Office used to deliver greeting cards on Christmas morning.

- Father Christmas had two addresses, Edinburgh and the North Pole. Letters addressed to 'Toyland' or 'Snowland' go to Edinburgh, but letters addressed to 'The North Pole' have to be sent there because there really is such a place!

Artformsmanformsart / V.R. Devika

There are different types of Art Forms. Music is very much a part of our culture and heritage. It is a good form of recreation and more than that gives immeasurable inner joy and peace.

MUSICAL NOTES!

Whether it is Carnatic or Hindustani vocal, music as a whole speaks a universal language of devotion, love and harmony.

December is coming and so will begin the music season in Chennai, the cultural capital of South India for classical music and dance. While the devout will be celebrating the *Marghazhi** month with devotional music and young girls will be singing the *Tiruppavai* (songs composed by the young poetess Saint, Andal, on Lord Vishnu), the music and dance lovers will be flocking to the music sabhas to listen to the different musicians give off their best. Young musicians who travel around the world giving concerts see to it that they are in Chennai in December! It is great to listen to the *swaras* cascading in the music that they sing.

Swaras? What are they?

The Carnatic system of music has identified seven basic kinds of notes and they are denoted by the syllables- *Sa, Ri, Ga, Ma, Pa, Da, Ni*. The notes are in the ascending order of their pitch. The seven notes are collectively called the ***Sapta Swaras***.

Like Snow White and the seven dwarfs, these seven musical notes are said to be the constant companions of Saraswathi the Goddess of music. Music is nothing but the seven notes playing a

** the tamil month, between the dates of 15th December to 14th January*

game together. If one or two notes don't join the play, then the game and the rules change. But it's good fun anyway! In Carnatic music jargon-it is the presence or absence of a single note, which gives a 'raga' its special trait.

Here's an interesting legend about the origin of notes from the sounds of nature.

1.The joyous shrill made by the peacock on seeing the dark clouds prior to a rain shower is compared to the note ***Sa*** (the first and basic note).

2.The bellowing of the cow when it calls for its calf that's being dragged away is likened to ***Ri.***

3.A goat's bleat is compared to ***Ga***.

4.The cry a heron makes is ***Ma***.

5.The note sung by the *koyal* (nightingale) in spring is ***Pa.***

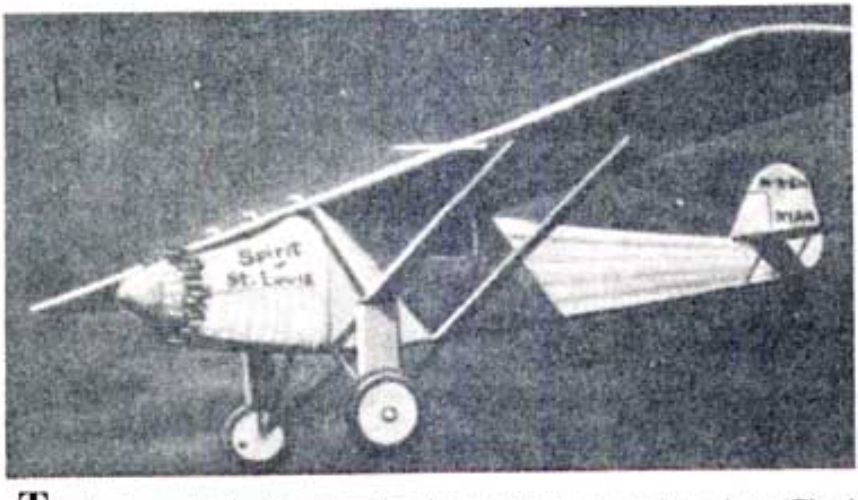
6.The neigh of the horse is ***Da***.

7.An elephant's trumpeting is ***Ni.***

The oscillation of a note while moving from one note to the other is *gamaka.* The variations in the oscillations are *Sangathi* and a musician shows his prowess in the way he handles the oscillation. A *raga* has a certain fixed ascendant and descendent in the way the *swaras* go up and down. This is called a scale. The scale gives the particular character to a *raga*. Each *raga* has a character and the musician has to build the character of the *raga* through the oscillation of the *swaras* and bring out the expression of the mood intended by the composer of the song.

The above is only an introduction to whet your appetite to learn more about music! Music as an art form has to be nurtured and taught to youngsters so that they are adequately exposed to our rich culture and traditions.

Cover illustration : Lalitha



The first man to fly the atlantic solo non-stop was an American, Charles Lindberg, in 1927.

-Suresh K.Anjum, Kolkata

Story

THE MESSAGE

There once lived a very wise and noble King. His country was rich and prosperous. One day a very learned sage paid a visit to his court. The King was very hospitable towards the sage. On the day of his departure the sage handed the King a small piece of paper and said, "Take this as my reward. Keep it with you always. But read what is written in it only when you think that all hope is lost." The King obediently put the piece of paper in a pendant and attached it to his ornamental chain.

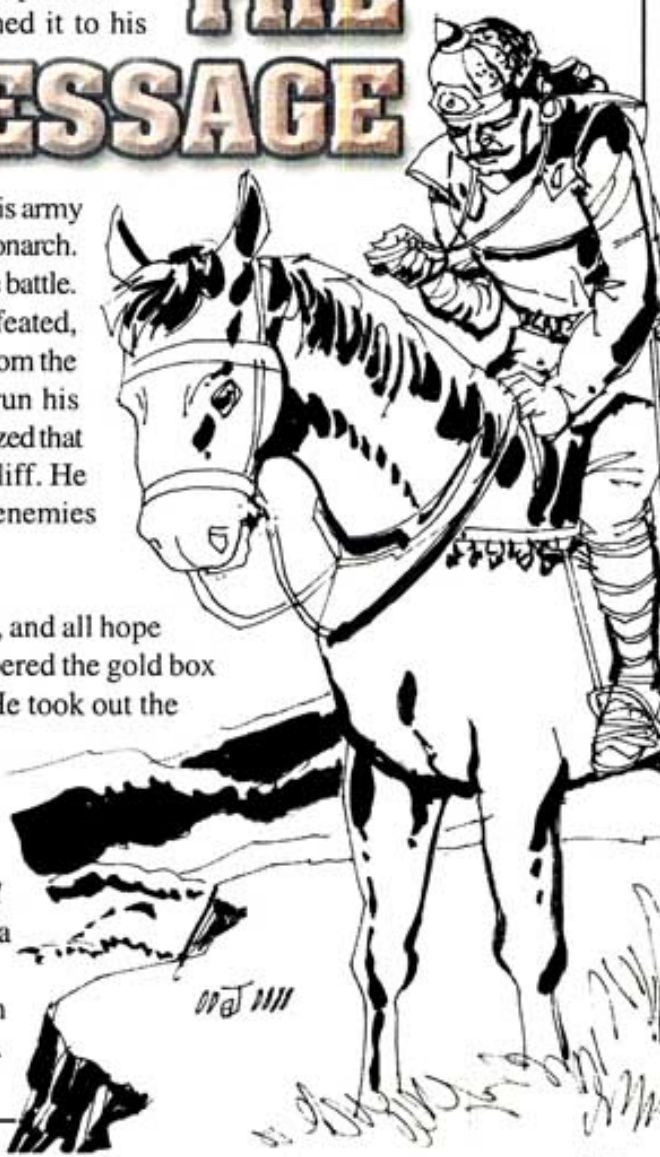
Many years passed since the sage's visit. The King was with his army fighting against a neighboring monarch. However the King was losing the battle. Since all his forces had been defeated, he got on to his horse and fled from the battlefield. As he tried to outrun his relentless pursuers, the King realized that he had come to the edge of a cliff. He could not go forward and his enemies were still following him.

As he stood there dejected, and all hope drained out of him, he remembered the gold box that was strung on his chain. He took out the message, which the sage had given for him to read only when he thought all hope was lost. On the piece of paper were written the simple words ***'This time will also pass.'*** These words had a marvelous effect on the King.

It suddenly occurred to him that his fate was not yet sealed. "Perhaps," thought the King. "My enemies will get lost in the jungle and I will be saved".

And as though by magic a few minutes later the sound of horse-hoofs grew softer, and the King knew that his pursuers were heading away from him, and that he was safe.

After this the King's confidence was restored. He regrouped his



Event

OF A DIFFERENT KIND...

It was a festival - a festival of a different kind - a festival of healthy contests ranging from drawing to dancing and quiz to fancy dress! A festival in which over 3500 children participated! And believe it or not, each child walking into the campus to participate had something to take back while walking out!

The Event : *Child Fest 2003*
Held on : *8th and 9th Nov. 2003*
In connection with : *Children's Day 2003*
Organisers : *SYMA (Srinivas Young Men's Association) and Rotary Club of Madras, Down Town.*

Hats off to those children for coming forward to participate with such great enthusiasm.

Congratulations to the organisers too for giving these children the opportunity.

---

scattered forces and formed a force strong enough to face his enemies. This time he was victorious and regained his kingdom.

There was a procession to celebrate the victory and the exhilarated King was waving out to the crowds from his chariot. It was then that he spotted a familiar face in the crowd. It was the sage he had met years ago. Ordering the chariot to be stopped, he went and fell at the sage's feet. He told the sage how the message had inspired him to defeat his enemies.

"My son, many congratulations on your victory. But please read this sentence also," so saying the sage handed the King yet another piece of paper and walked away. The King opened the piece of paper. On it was written ***'This time will also pass'***. On reading this, the King's face shone with a heavenly light. He had attained enlightenment.

Prasad Jayaram
Std. VIII
Bombay Scottish School, Mumbai

HELICOPTER LIKE BIRD!

The humming bird can fly forward, backward, hover in space and even fly upside down. It can accelerate to full speed or stop abruptly at its destination, in the most stunning manner. In fact Man-made-helicopter is the only other flying object that can somewhat match the versatility of this bird!

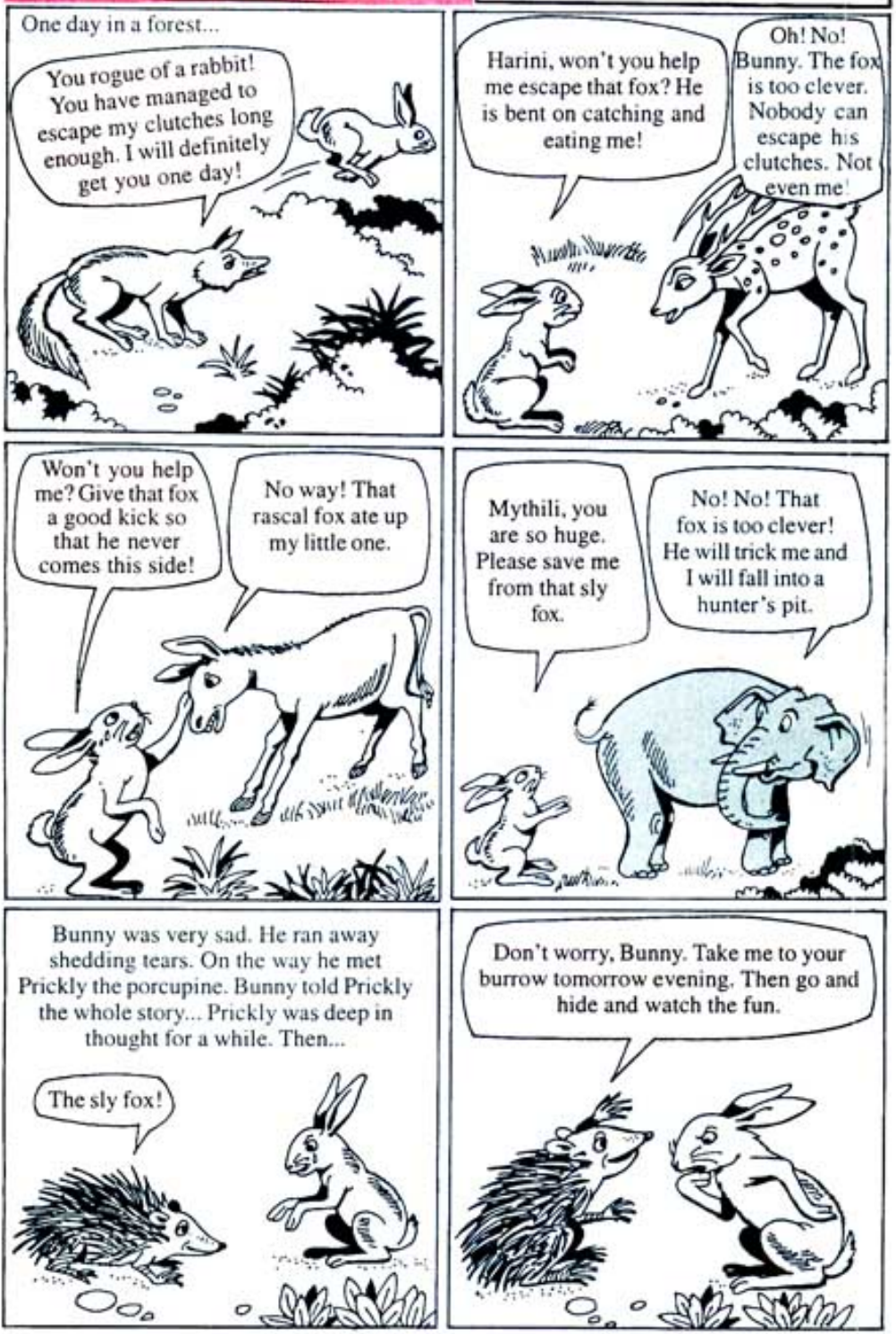
The humming bird is little more than two inches long. It has a blue and green jewel-like colouring which makes it very attractive. There are more than 320 different species and the shape of the bill of each bird matches the shape of the flower it feeds on. Thus many species of humming birds have evolved side by side with certain flowers.

The humming bird's wings have particularly long hand bones to which the fine feathers are attached. These unusual wings can move in the same way as a human wrist! This flexibility allows the bird to keep its body perfectly motionless while hovering over a spot.

Its wings move very fast - upto 78 beats per minute. It moves in the shape of the number 8. We can only see the blur of its wings and hear the humming sound after which the bird has been named. While feeding, this bird pollinates the flowers. When the bird extracts the nectar with its long tongue, its head gets dusted with the pollen. This is transfered to the next flower it visits. This little bird gets nectar and in return for this favour helps pollination.

THE FOX MEETS HIS MATCH!

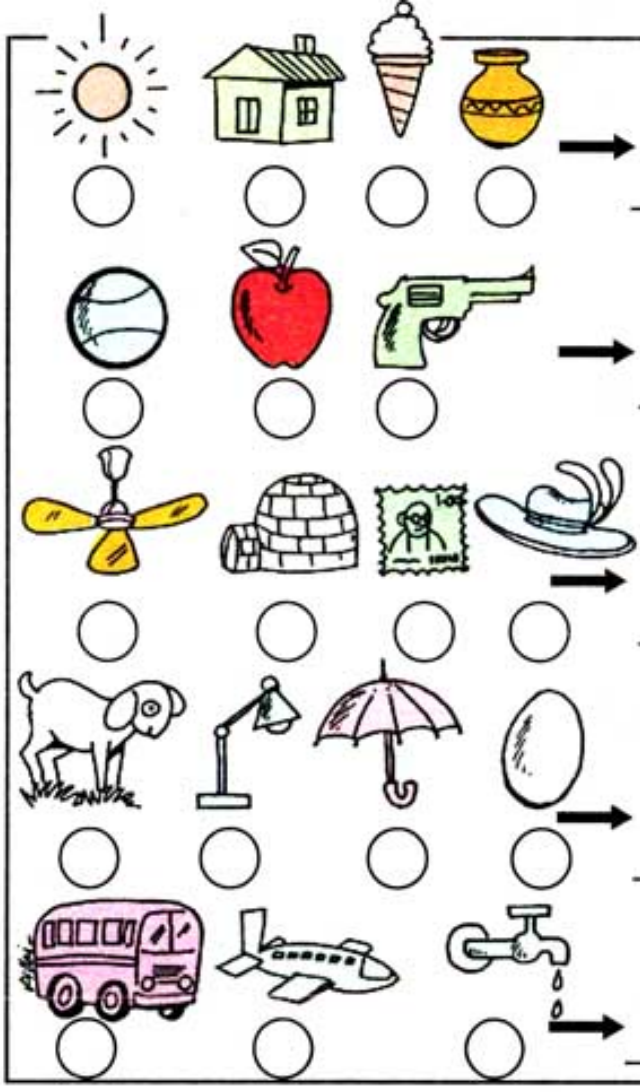
Story and Illustration : Aazhi



The next evening, the fox came near the rabbit's burrow and saw a white shape sitting at the entrance of the hole.
The fox jumped to catch the bunny.
Aha! You rascally bunny! Sleeping are you! Caught you atlast!
He bit into the animal. And hidden inside the cloth was the porcupine!
The porcupine flung himself on to the fox, the quills digging well into the fox's mouth.
Ah! Ah! Ah!
Oh! It's too painful! That Bunny has tricked me. The porcupine's quills are hurting terribly. I will never come this side again!
Thanks a lot. Dear Friend! You certainly scared the fox away!
We can defeat slyness by cunningness. Anyway, no animal can ever harm me!

Puzzle page

WORDS IN PICTURES



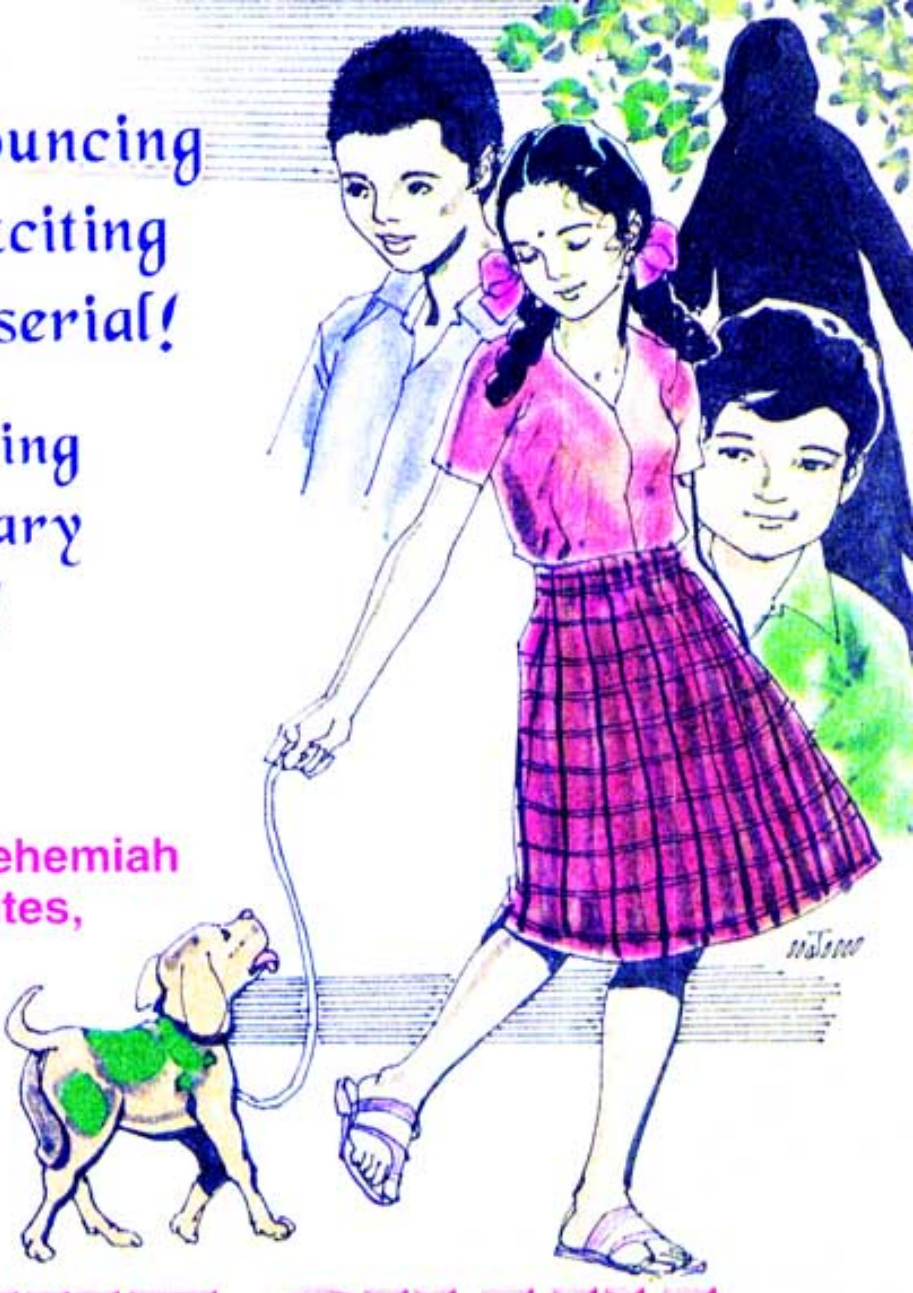
Given here are some pictures. Identify them and write the first letter of that word in the space given. Now make a word joining the letters: Viola! You got it!

- R.Jhansi
Std. VIII
BV Reddy SSS,
Chittoor

Announcing an exciting new serial!

Starting January 2004!

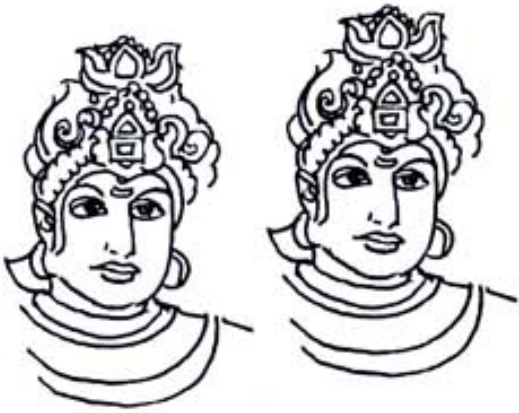
Asha Nehemiah writes,



THE GUAVA TREE CAPER

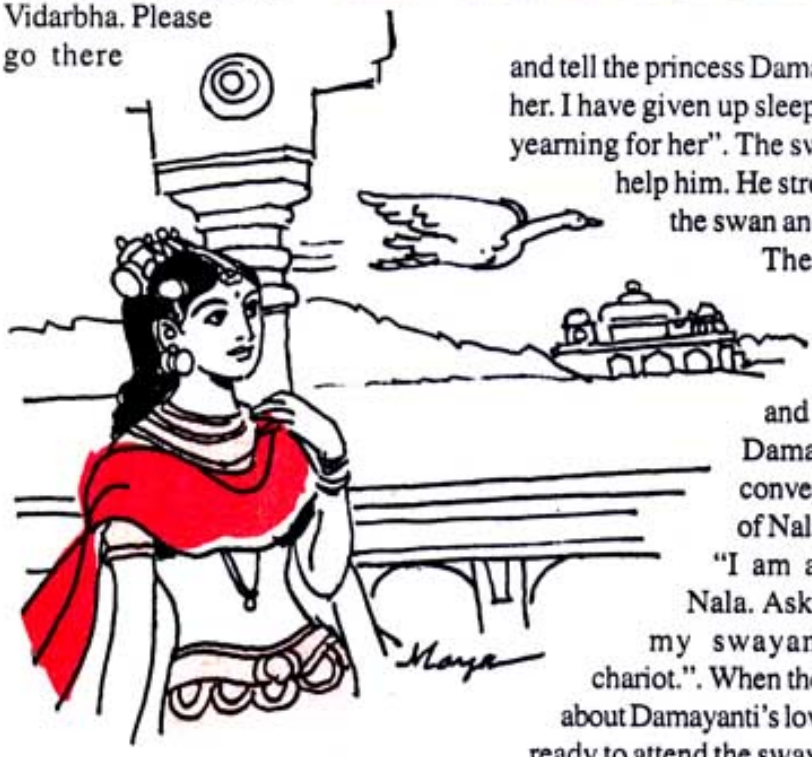
Don't miss it!

Nala, the ruler of Nishadha remained a bachelor. One day a poet arrived at his court. He recited a poem which meant that a man without a wife was bare and unprotected. He also referred to him about Damayanti, the princess of Vidarbha. He described her as one fashioned by the creator in his best mood. On hearing this Nala fell in love with Damayanti. He forgot his usual duties as a king and began to wander idly in the garden watching the lotus pools.



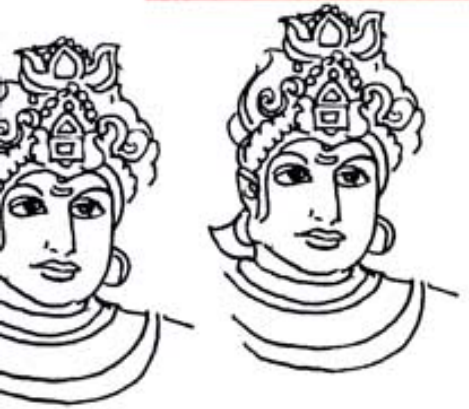
SWAN SENT A-WOOING!

One day he saw a family of swans paddling along. He caught one and lifted it up. He said, "I envy you for you can fly but I can't". The swan said, "O king, you have fast chariots." Nala said, "But I can't go to Vidarbha. Please go there and tell the princess Damayanti that I love her. I have given up sleep and food while yearning for her". The swan promised to help him. He stroked the back of the swan and let it go.



The swan kept its fledgelings under the care of an old swan and flew off to meet Damayanti. When it conveyed the message of Nala to her she said, "I am also pining for Nala. Ask him to come to my swayamwara in his chariot.". When the swan told Nala about Damayanti's love for him, he got ready to attend the swayamwara.

Prize Winning Mythology Story - 5



Bima, the father of Damayanti heard from her maids that she was ready for marriage. He sent out heralds far and wide announcing the swayamwara. Numerous suitors came to Vidarbha. Nala was one of the earliest to start. Four others joined him on the way. They were Indra, Varuna, Agni and Yama. They got a promise from Nala that he would allow all of them to have an equal chance of winning Damayanti's hand.

All the princes gathered at the swayamwara 'mandap.' At an auspicious hour the princess entered carrying a garland. Everyone in the hall stared at her longingly. Nala was sitting along with the four Gods in a row. Damayanti saw to her bewilderment five princes looking like Nala! The Gods had each assumed the form of Nala.

Damayanti stared hard but could not find out the real Nala. Suddenly a thought occured to her. She saw the four Gods with unwinking eyelids while the human Nala's eyes fluttered normally. That was enough for her to find out the real Nala. She went forward and garlanded him. The Gods appreciated her intelligence, blessed the couple and vanished.

Nala lived happily with Damayanti for a while after which he had to undergo a whole lot of trials and tribulations which is yet another story!

R. Sumathi Zebaselvi
std. VIII, St. Joseph of Cluny H.S.School, Pondicherry

COLOUR WITH BLADES

You need : A pencil and an eraser

White drawing paper

Blade (Preferably a used shaving blade)

Fevicryl Fabric Paint

A palette or an old plate to mix colours.

Method : Take a blade and put a few drops of red, blue, white, yellow and black colour in the ends.

Keep the blade on a sheet of paper and bend it. Slowly turn your blade along with your fingers. You will have a nice flower print! Now, sketch leaves stems, branches etc., with pencil and colour them.

The same way you can make many more designs by sprinkling colour on the blade and rotating it with your fingers on the paper.

Now is the perfect season to make greeting cards and give to your loved ones! **But be extremely careful in using the blade though! Take your parent's help.**

-B.Santosh
Std. VII
St.Mary's High School, Hubli

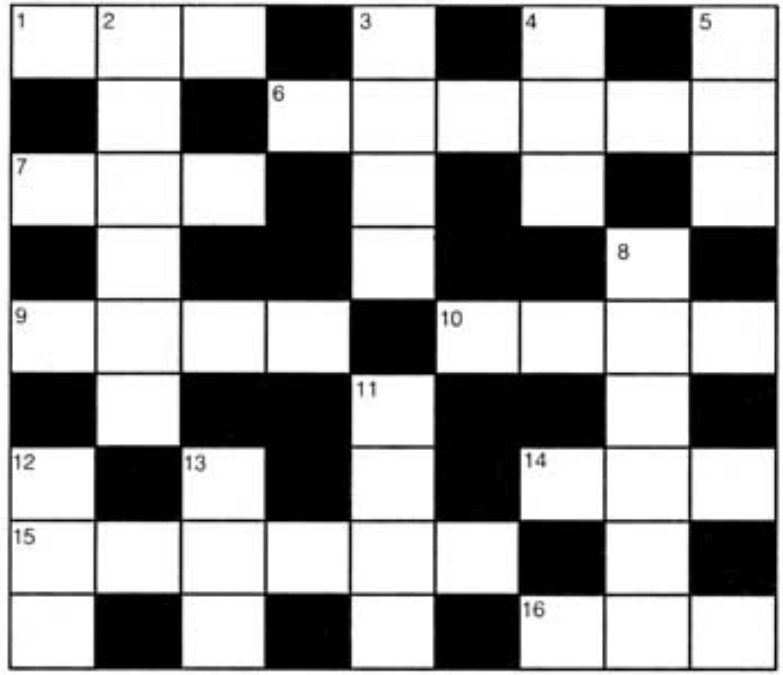
Crossword Contest Entry - 10

ACROSS:

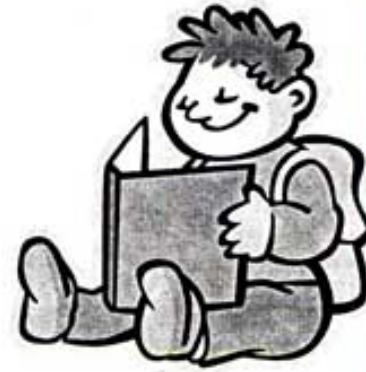
1. Imitate
6. Branched horn of a deer
7. A coloured fluid used for writing.
9. Four wheeled carriage for a baby.
10. Heavy stick used as a weapon.
14. Sick or unwell
15. A Christian festival
16. A pen in which pigs are housed

DOWN:

2. Extreme poverty
3. Small biting fly (TANG anagram)
4. An alcoholic drink
5. Attempt
8. Young hen
11. Long arduous journey
12. Gender, i.e. male or female
13. A small poisonous snake



- M. Deepika Priyadarshini,
Std IX,
Tagore International School,
New Delhi



Answers :

Across : 1. Ape 6.Antler 7. Ink 9. Pram 10. Club 14. Ill 15. Easter 16. Sty
Down : 2. Penury 3. Gnat 4. Ale 5. Try 8. Pullet 11. Trek 12. Sex 13. Asp

Budding Chef

BAKE A PIE!

Ingredients required:
Butter - ½ cup
Sugar - 1 cup
Eggs - 4
Raisins - 1 cup
Walnuts - 1 cup (chopped)
Vanilla essence - 1 tsp

Method:
Cream butter till fluffy. Add sugar to the butter gradually, beating well all the while. Add each egg into the mixture, beating thoroughly before adding the next. Now add raisins and the chopped walnuts. Add the vanilla essence into the mixture and mix well. Pour the mixture into a greased pie dish and bake for 30 mins. in a moderately hot oven.

- Ankit Vikram
14 yrs,
Holy Home School,
Serampur,
West Bengal

Tasty Bread Triangles

Ingredients required:
Bread slices - 4
Potatoes (2) - Boiled and mashed
Onions (1) - Chopped finely
Garam Masala - one teaspoon
Chilli powder - ½ teaspoon
Salt to taste

Method:
Cut the bread slices into triangles and toast them well. Mix the mashed potatoes and chopped onions with the spices and salt. Spread them on the triangular pieces of bread and make sandwiches. Serve hot with tomato ketchup.

- P. Ashish Kumar
Sacred Heart School, Kharagpur

Masala Tea

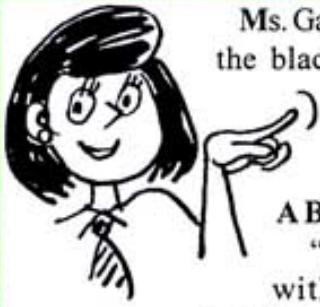
Ingredients required:
Water - 1 cup
Milk - ½ cup
Tea Powder - 2 tsp
Ginger - 1inch piece
Cardamom - 4/5
Sugar to taste

Method:
Boil the water. Add tea powder, ginger (crushed) and peeled cardomom. Filter the solution. Add hot milk and sugar. Let it stand for a while.

It is a nice hot drink for the chilly winter months!

- P.M. Sreelakshmi,Std. VIII,
Air Force School, Melahanka

SPELLING-A BUGBEAR!



Ms. Gayatri turned to the black board and wrote in bold letters - **SPELLING-A Bugbear!**

"Do you agree with me", she asked.

There was a loud chorus of "Yes" from the class. "It's confusing", said Shibani. "It's exasperating", said Darshini. "It's maddening", said Harini.

"And it's illogical", interrupted Ms. Gayatri.

"Yes," said Abhishek. "B U T is *but* and P U T is *put*"

Ms. Gayatri laughed. "There are 26 alphabets in the English language and only 45 basic sounds," she said. "One specific sound is spelt in different ways or a single letter may represent a variety of sounds. Isn't that confusing? Take the alphabet **'A'** .It represents different sounds as in the words *Hat, Day* and *Call*."

The class repeated the three words over and over again until the place sounded like the Tower of Babel! Ms. Gayatri then turned to the board and wrote:

stAge, rAIn, gAUge, dAy, brEAk vEIL, rEIgn, wEIgh, thEy

"All these words have the same sounds," she said. "And then there are words with silent letters! Look at the following," and she turned to the blackboard and wrote:

***H**our lis**t**en **w**rong shou**l**d **k**now*

"And then we have words that sound alike but spelt differently:

p***ea***r and p***ai***r, m***ee***t and m***ea***t, g***rea***t and g***ra***te, p***ea***ce and p***ie***ce, d***ea***r and d***ee***r.

And then again words that are spelt the same but mean different things," she continued:

"*Ball* meaning a round object to play with and *ball* meaning a dance.

Cricket meaning a game and also an

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- **Editor**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2004, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

insect."

"The *"sh"* sound has 14 different spellings;—sh, s, ss, si, ssi, ti, ci, ce, se, sc, ch, sch, chs, psh as in:

shoe, nation,chaperone, pshaw, mission, issue , ocean, sugar, suspicion, schist, conscious, fuchsia mansion and nausea," concluded Ms.Gayatri.

"Wow", said Abhishek

"Bernard Shaw made fun of the English language by spelling ***FISH*** as ***GHOTI***

For *F* he took the *GH* from cough.
For *I* he took the *O* from women
For *SH* he took the *TI* from nation," Ms.Gayatri said, writing on the blackboard.

Ms. Gayatri paused to let what she had written on the board sink in. The class was silent as they absorbed all that had been said about the chaotic state of English spelling.

"English spelling is a skill that can be learnt. And all of you can become excellent spellers if you want to," said Ms.Gayatri.

"In the next class I will give you some guide lines for spelling. It's always good to look at words carefully when you are reading and not just glance at them," she concluded as the bell rang.

Jokes

Doctor : Nurse! Why are you trying so hard to wake up the patient who is fast asleep?

Nurse : Because it's time to give him a sleeping tablet!

- R. Prasanna
Karur

Interviewer : What is your father's occupation?

Ahalya : ICS in summer, HCS in winter.

Interviewer : Explain it.

Ahalya : He is an Icecream seller in summer and Hot Channa seller in winter!

- Sandhya Lakshmi.K
Std VI,
SVMES, Bangalore

Teacher : Rahul, give an example for expansion and contraction.

Rahul : Sir, our summer vacations are long and winter vacations are short!

- Tony Natung
Std IX,
VKV Seijosa

LAUGH IT OFF!

Teacher : Vani! What is the difference between a good conductor and a bad conductor?

Vani : A good conductor will give the remaining 25 paise but a bad conductor wouldn't sir!

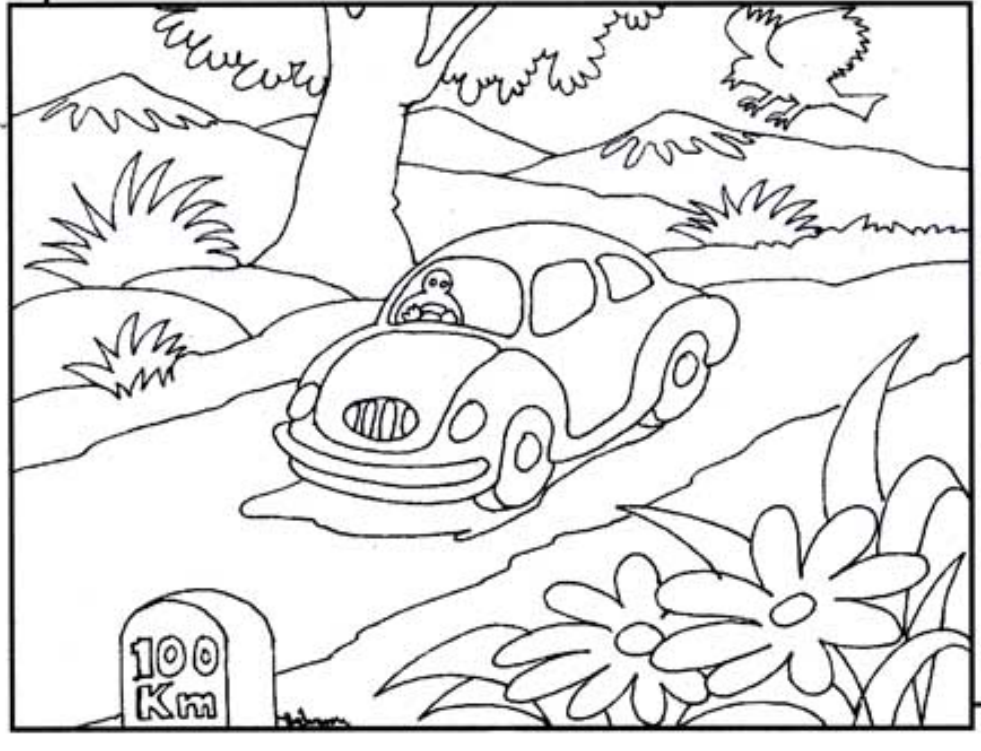
- M. Vinoth
Sankarankovil

FOR TINY TOTS!

COLOUR AND KEEP

COLOUR THE DOTTED AREAS AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!

Activity



GOKULAM

The magazine for children

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Poem

A TRIBUTE TO GRANDPA

Wrinkled skin, a toothless smile,
That was you grandpa to me.
So old at age,
Yet so youthful at heart.
Eyes twinkling at the sight of me,
That was you grandpa, to me.

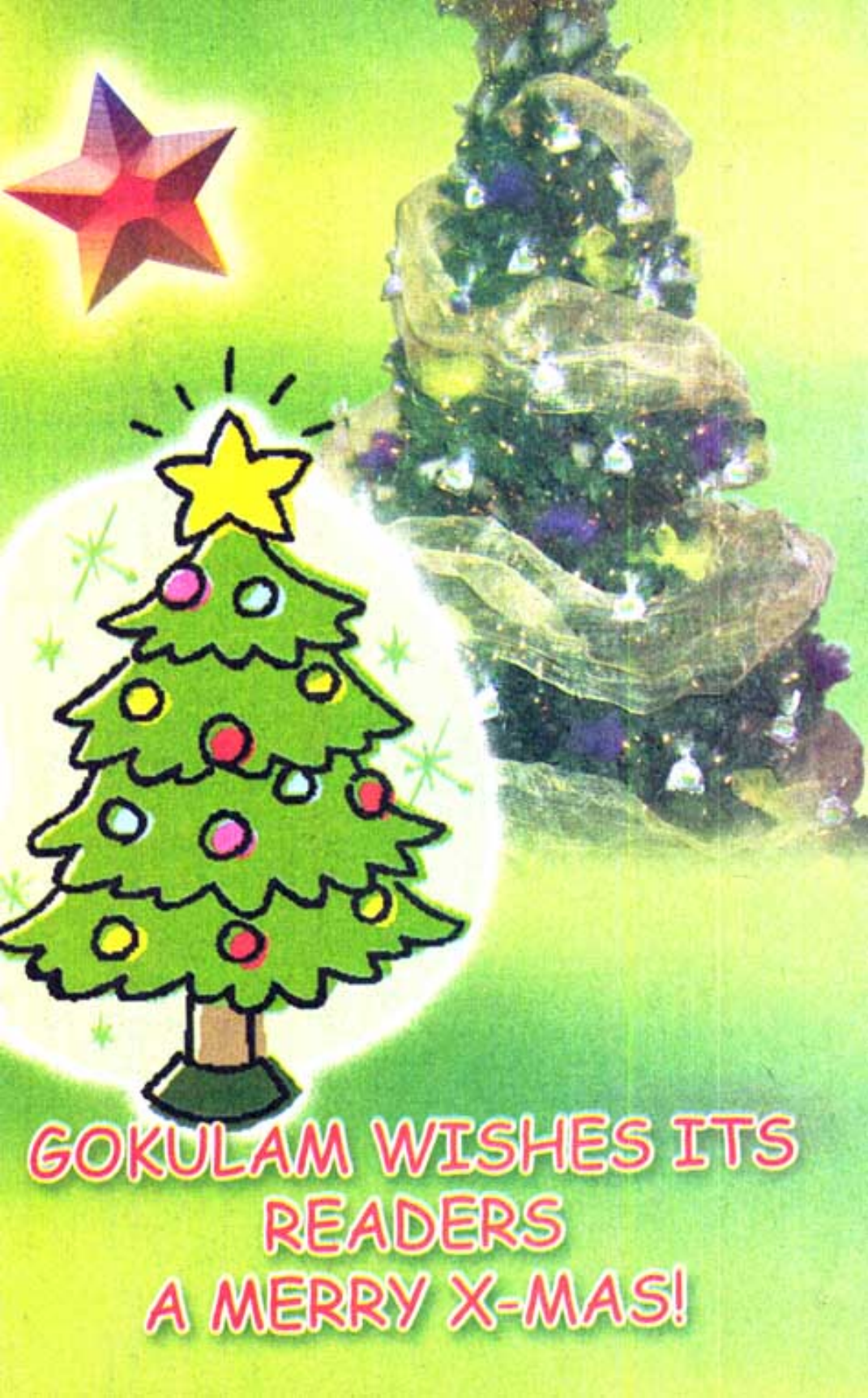
Full of love and care,
And a very good sense of humour.
Lips that always spoke the truth,
Hands that always did right,
Eyes that always were perfect.
A guiding light to me,
That was you grandpa, to me.

Walking till the verandah,
On your weak limbs.
Waving me goodbye,
Every morning when I went to school,
That was you grandpa, to me.

One fine day as I returned home,
You were there no more,
With those cheery welcome of yours,
To drive away my woes.
I miss you grandpa all the more.

Hereafter who would be there to welcome me back?
Who would guide me through my problems?
All I can do is to shed tears,
And preserve happy memories,
Forever in my heart.

Charanya Chandran
Std X,
IDA Scudder school, Vellore


GOKULAM WISHES ITS
READERS
A MERRY X-MAS!

Bravest among the braves / R. Surendran

" A true soldier acts with malice to none and charity for all"

"Lt. General Cariappa was the first Indian to become the head of the Indian Army. He took command of the magnificent Indian Army from the British General SK Roy Bucher, on January 15th 1945. This day is celebrated as Army Day throughout India.

As Chief of Staff, Indian Army, Cariappa made an appeal to all the other Army officials in a broadcast, to guard the Nation, both from outside aggression as well as internal disturbances.

He emphasised four essential needs they had to bear in mind. First, thorough professional knowledge, second, good management of men, third, proper maintenance of state properties and lastly service to the people both in peace and in war. He reminded his fellow officers that as soldiers they are the servants of their motherland. Finally, he declared that the Army should be kept outside Party Politics.

• General Cariappa at Baroda House, New Delhi in 1948

Born in the year 1900, in Mercara, Coorg, Cariappa had his early education in Central High School, Mercara and then in Presidency College, Madras.

General Cariappa was

PRIZE WINNERS

We had an overwhelming response to the English homework given by Radha Aunty. Thankyou, children! The five lucky winners are :

1. K.V. Nandhan Std. VII
Sri Sankara Senior Sec, School, Chennai.

2. Aravindhan Sundar
Std. IX
B.P. I. P. S. Bangalore

3. Shilpa Menon, Jamshedpur

4. R.Neranjana Std XI
Holy Cross M.H.S.S. Chennai

5. Lakshmi Vishwanath
MES H.S.S., Goa.

Congratulations! Your prize will be with you soon!

A GIANT AMONG INDIAN GENERALS

* General Cariappa

the first Indian Cadet to be commissioned in the year 1919 and the first Indian to enter the famous Staff College, Quetta in the year 1933. He saw active service in Mesopotamia and Wazirastan. In the year 1942, he raised and commanded a Machine Gun Battalion of 7th Rajput Regiment. He was also the first Indian Brigadier to visit the U.S.

To win a battle, prayer to God, Cariappa believes, is as effective as ammunition and artillery. A soldier first and last is essentially a religious man. He has no place for communalism, in his heart.

General Cariappa once remarked after partition, "I do not care if a man is a Sikh, Hindu, Muslim or Christian, as long as he plays the game to serve our country well. This is all that matters to me."

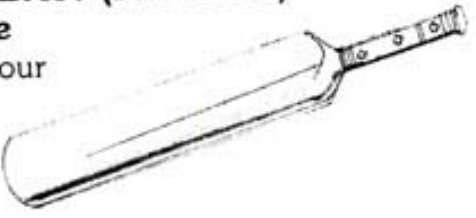
Cariappa was a cool, daring and fearless soldier in war and a brave, honourable celebrity in peace.

When he retired in the year 1953, he made a farewell broadcast through All India Radio, in which he said that all soldiers of the Indian Army had a special and permanent place in his heart. ●

CASE FILE - 6

THE MISSING CRICKET BAT! (PAGE 10)

Logic behind the case



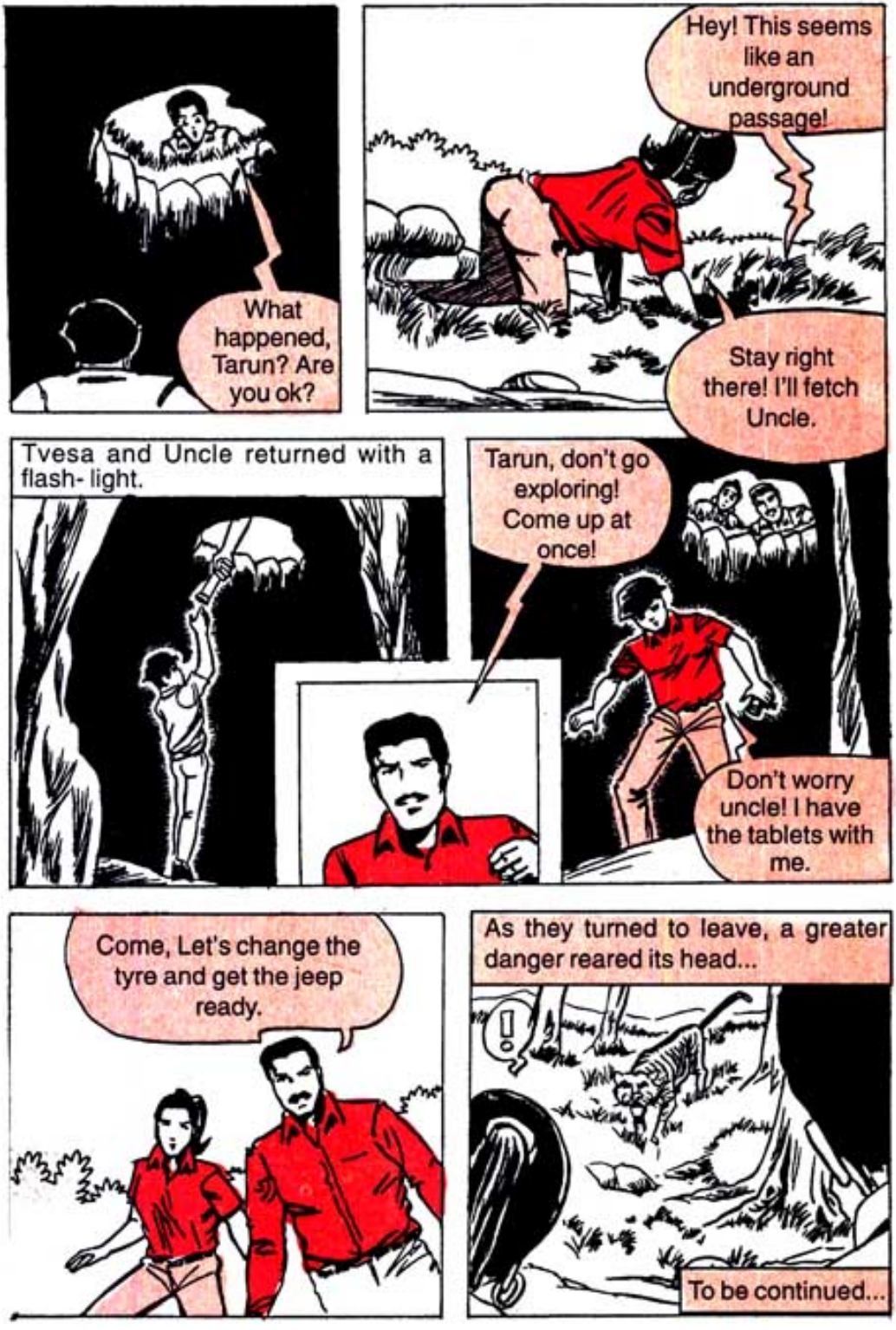
Ranjith has not told any of the four servants about the special nature (mini size) of the bat. Nor has he shown the same to any of them. It was only Manickam who searched the table drawers also (where a regular cricket bat cannot be accommodated). Thus, the fact that he knew the size of the cricket bat, has been revealed.

8 KIDNAPPED

Story and Illustration : Muthu

Uncle! Do something! Quick!
Uncle Akash hurriedly pressed a button.
!
?
Hey Presto! Two wings came up and the jeep turned into an aeroplane!
The jeep'O'plane sped upwards, changing direction!
Wow! What fun!
!?!
Hey! Look! That jeep! Its flying! Unbelievable!

Within a short while...
Well! Safe at last! We'll stretch a bit, Uncle!
Come Tarun! Let's take a look around.
That man seems to be going stealthily. Surely, he doesn't belong here!
What is he doing here? Let's follow him.
It's truly mysterious!
Suddenly...
Where on earth is he?
He's disappeared!
Let's move over and look for him.
Both of them rushed forward. But-
Tvesa, help!
!?!


What happened, Tarun? Are you ok?
Hey! This seems like an underground passage!
Stay right there! I'll fetch Uncle.
Tvesa and Uncle returned with a flash- light.
Tarun, don't go exploring! Come up at once!
Don't worry uncle! I have the tablets with me.
Come, Let's change the tyre and get the jeep ready.
As they turned to leave, a greater danger reared its head...
!
To be continued...

PLANES OF WORLD WAR I AND II

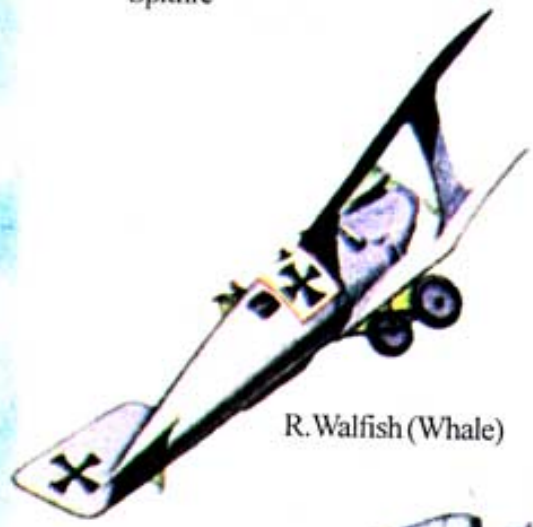
A PICTORIAL

Fokker (D-7)

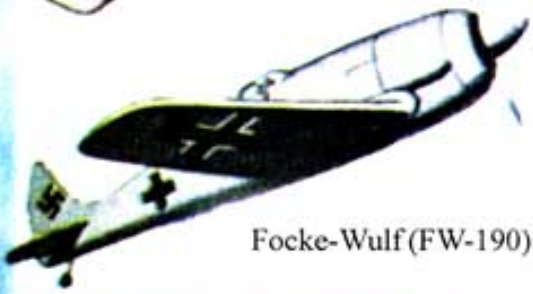
Lockheed (P-38)

Spitfire

SPAD

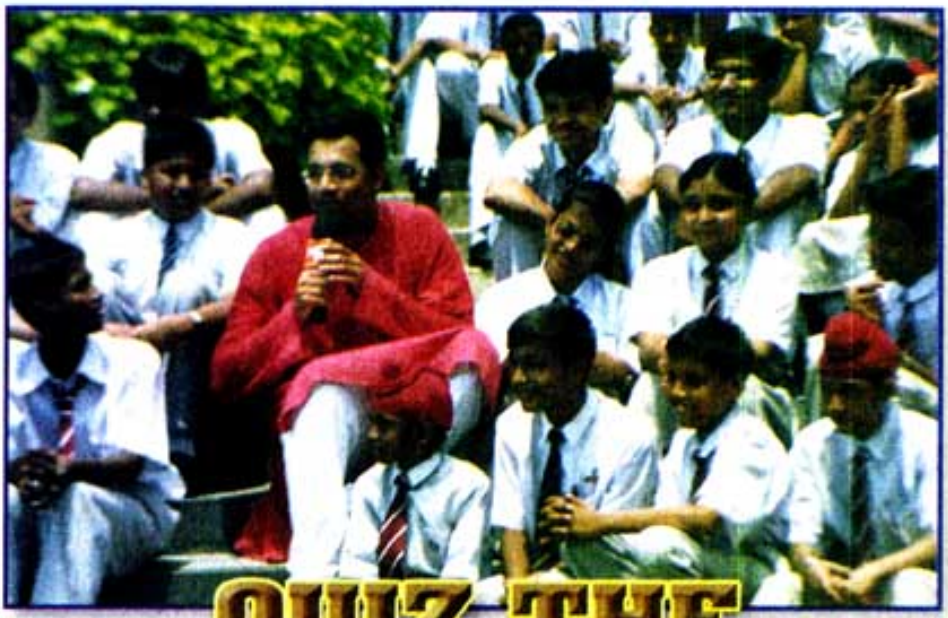


R. Walfish (Whale)



Focke-Wulf (FW-190)

SE-5



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Was he good in studies at school?
What kind of music does he like?
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and he'll answer in the
February Issue

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Last Date : 22.12.2003

* Only one question allowed * Write only on a postcard
* Mention details of your name, age, class and school. Also give your residential address.

✉ The TRP rating mentioned in Grandma worm column in the November issue is Television / Total Rating Points. This determines the number of viewers watching a programme. By this, advertisers may choose to advertise based on such popularity indices. More TRPs mean more popularity and so more advertisements, during the programme. The story, 'A triumph of sprit' was very touching and inspiring.

- B.Naveena, Chennai

✉ I enjoyed reading about Shri Ravi Shankar's explanation of the significance of the bindi, which most of us are unaware about. I also enjoyed 'The Ghost in the Choultry' story. I enjoyed cutting out clothes for Peter the cowboy.

- Meenakshi Mukerjee, Chennai

✉ GOKULAM is a library of knowledge! It is a good source of general knowledge!

-Anil Kumar Kar, Puri

GOKULAM IS A LIBRARY OF KNOWLEDGE!

✉ I am learning new words. I like 'Kidnapped' and 'The Spices' very much. I like doing the activities too.

- Smayana, Hyderabad

✉ The cover story, 'The boon that boomeranged' in the October Issue was very good.

- J.Pooja, Bangalore

✉ The usage of IT's on page 16 of the October Issue in that place is wrong. There are differences between ITS and IT's.

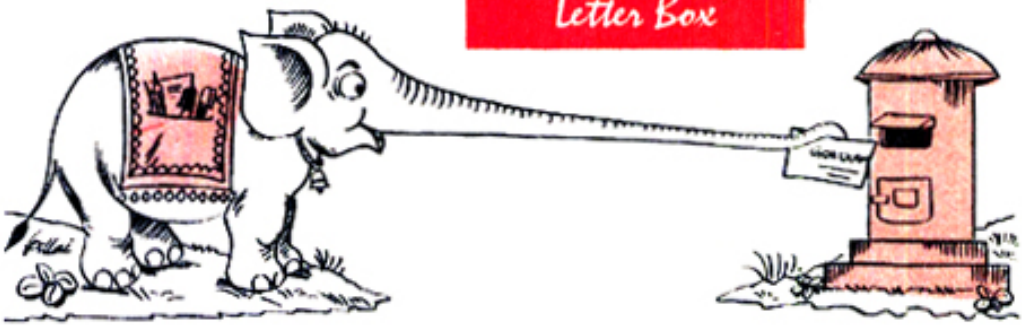
- M.Sameer Mohamed, Thanjavur

Thank you for noticing the mistake. We admit our error and assure the readers that it will not be repeated. ITS- The possessive form of 'it', for eg. The book has lost its jacket. IT'S - A contraction of 'it is', for eg., It's starting to rain.

- Editor

✉ I liked the Harry Potter short story, 'Traditional games are fun', 'The Foolish Donkey' and 'For want of a moustache' in the Ocober issue. I made Peter look

Letter Box



very handsome!

-V.Sai Pavan Kumar, Bellary

✉ I liked reading 'The boon that boomeranged' and the picture story, ' For want of a moustache' in the October issue.

- Chirag Chordia, Chennai

✉ By reading GOKULAM regularly, my spoken and written English has improved. I wish a very happy new year to Gokulam and all the readers.

- Rohit Mane, Mumbai

✉ The Harry Potter Short story contest is a true example of the level of imagination of children.

- R.Muthuramalingam, Coimbatore

✉ The cover design of the October issue was very nice! GOKULAM has become more funny and interesting. It is really 'unique'!

-Nirmala Kamath, Kannur

✉ The story 'Dreams and Reality' was really touching.

- Hema Shankar, Chennai

✉ I read the 'Order of the Phoenix-book review' in the September 2003 issue and I felt very bad reading it. It is stated in the review, "Sirius Black's death did not seem to be a great tragic loss..." But I disagree! I even started crying while reading that chapter and so did the author, JK. Rowling while writing the book. I feel that not only me but many would have felt the same way about it.

- N. Greeshma, Chennai

✉ There are flowers,
But not like Rose.
There are birds,
But none like the Peacock.
There are animals,
But none like the Dog.
There are countries,
But none like India.
There are books,
But none like GOKULAM!

- V. Sankruthy, Secunderabad

✉ The September issue was really superb. I am a regular reader of GOKULAM since three years. The 'Case Files' are very interesting. The serials 'Kidnapped' and 'Ritvi and Grandpa Achappa' are superb.

V.V. Karthik, Belgaum

RITVI AND GRANDPA ACHAPPA

The water gushed down with strong force and the vapour blinded her eyes. The wind was strong as Ritvi stood admiring one of nature's great wonders, the Niagara Falls. Her daughter Kriti screamed in delight! Ritvi recalled Achappa and his reminiscences of the falls. An old man with a long white beard stood nearby. "Grandpa would have probably looked like him today, if he were alive," Ritvi thought with a pang.

***

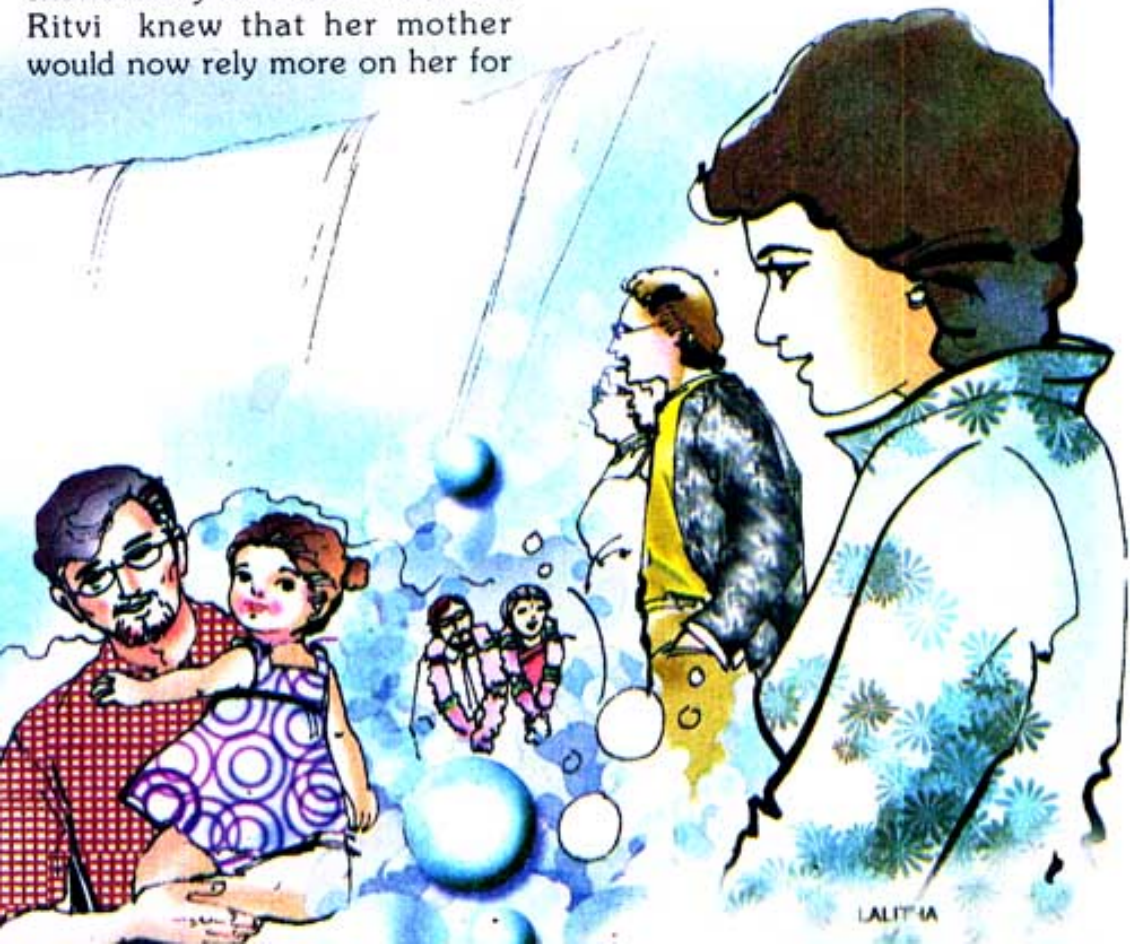
Grandpa had been coughing since morning and Ritvi had just returned from college. She ran into the kitchen and made Achhappa some *kashayam* with ginger and pepper. She slowly made him sit up in his easy chair and helped him drink the medicine. Achha felt relieved. That evening he beckoned Ritvi to come closer and told her the story of how Parikshit Maharajah had listened to the entire story of Krishna seven days before his death. As Achappa came to the last part he felt exhausted and asked Ritvi for a glass of water. She ran in and found a glass with 'Niagara' inscribed on it. She held Achha close and poured the cold water into his mouth.

Achha drank it and held Ritvi close to him. He picked up a book, which lay in the corner of the table. "Read this for the rest of the story", he said, giving the book titled *'Bhagavatham'* to Ritvi. He also handed over a key to her. Lakshmi had just come back from work and both of them helplessly watched Achha's discomfort. That night Achappa passed away quietly in his sleep. Ritvi broke down into tears. She could not bear to stay in the house to which Achhappa would never return!

A week later when Ritvi opened her grandfather's cupboard, she found a diary in which Achha had addressed a letter to Ritvi - one for everyday - from the time she was born.

She also found a little chest, which contained some ancestral corals, gold and emeralds that Achha had received from his grandparents and parents. It was an old wooden chest with a lovely traditional locking system. She also found an umbrella, a folded walking stick, a pair of glasses and two pairs of dhotis. He had lived a simple and an honest life. He did not have anything more in the form of his personal belongings. Lakshmi did not speak much but was totally shattered by her father's demise. Ritvi knew that her mother would now rely more on her for emotional support.

The house now seemed empty when Ritvi returned from college. Lakshmi had resigned her job and begun to write. She sent articles to newspapers and felt better being at home and taking care of the kitchen. Ritvi saw her grandpa in her mother. Ritvi now spent more time with her mother and they spoke about politics, education, nature and people. Ritvi discovered hidden stories and truths about her mother. She



felt the warmth of Achhappa in her. Every night she would pray for Achha's soul and think about him before going to sleep.

Ritvi graduated that year with flying colours and went on to do her Master's at the University of Central Florida. Lakshmi who was alone for a year published a book during Ritvi's absence and soon joined her at Florida. When Ritvi graduated three years later, she joined as a faculty member at the University itself.

***

"Shall we leave, Ritvi," asked Prasanna. He was holding Kriti and Ritvi smiled at her daughter. Lakshmi took her grandchild from Prasanna and they walked towards the car. The noise of the fall still echoed aloud.

Ritvi had met Prasanna at the campus. He was also teaching at the University and had the same date of birth as that of Achha's, September 11th. "How strange!" Ritvi had thought when they first met. Lakshmi was only too happy with their decision to get married. Three years later Ritvi delivered a lovely girl child whom they named Kriti. Kriti too had brown eyes and a long nose like Achappa.

This was the first time that they were visiting the Niagara. Watching the falls was like watching life flow. How time flies! It was already six years since Grandpa had left them. "I must return to India eventually to fulfill Achappa's dream," thought Ritvi.

In due course Ritvi and her family returned to India. Ritvi set up one of the biggest libraries for children, which Lakshmi was glad to look after. She became a visiting faculty member at the Florida University and continued to teach at several other Universities, both in India and abroad.

Ritvi however, could never forget the special bond that she had shared with Grandpa Achappa.

Concluded

Kathalaya-
The House of Stories
E-mail: kathalaya@vsnl.net.in

I am very studious and serious. I am in a new school. How am I to make friends?

- R. Arjun, Chennai

Dear Arjun,

Being studious need not prevent you from being friendly. Actually it should help you to get more friends. Friendship always starts with a smile. Keep smiling, say 'hello', extend your hand in friendship. If you have a special item in your lunch box share it; if your colleague has any doubt in his lessons, be helpful. Don't make a big issue of small things; forgive and forget. All these will win a lot of friends for you.

***

I love to read books. I take one book per week from the library and read a few pages every day. But my father is angry. He says I should concentrate on my text books. I stand second in my class. What do I do now?

- K.S. Parvathy
Trivandrum

Dear Parvathy,

I am on your side as for as reading goes. One should not confine one self to reading just text books. Reading other books improves your language skills, communication skills and general knowledge. You come to know more about men and matters besides behavioural attitudes of people. So do read, but see to it that, (a.) You read quality books and not trash; (b.) You do not neglect your text books. In your case I am sure you can convince your parents by assuring them the above. You are already holding second rank in your class. See to it that you do not slip up on this position.

***

I LOVE BOOKS BUT...

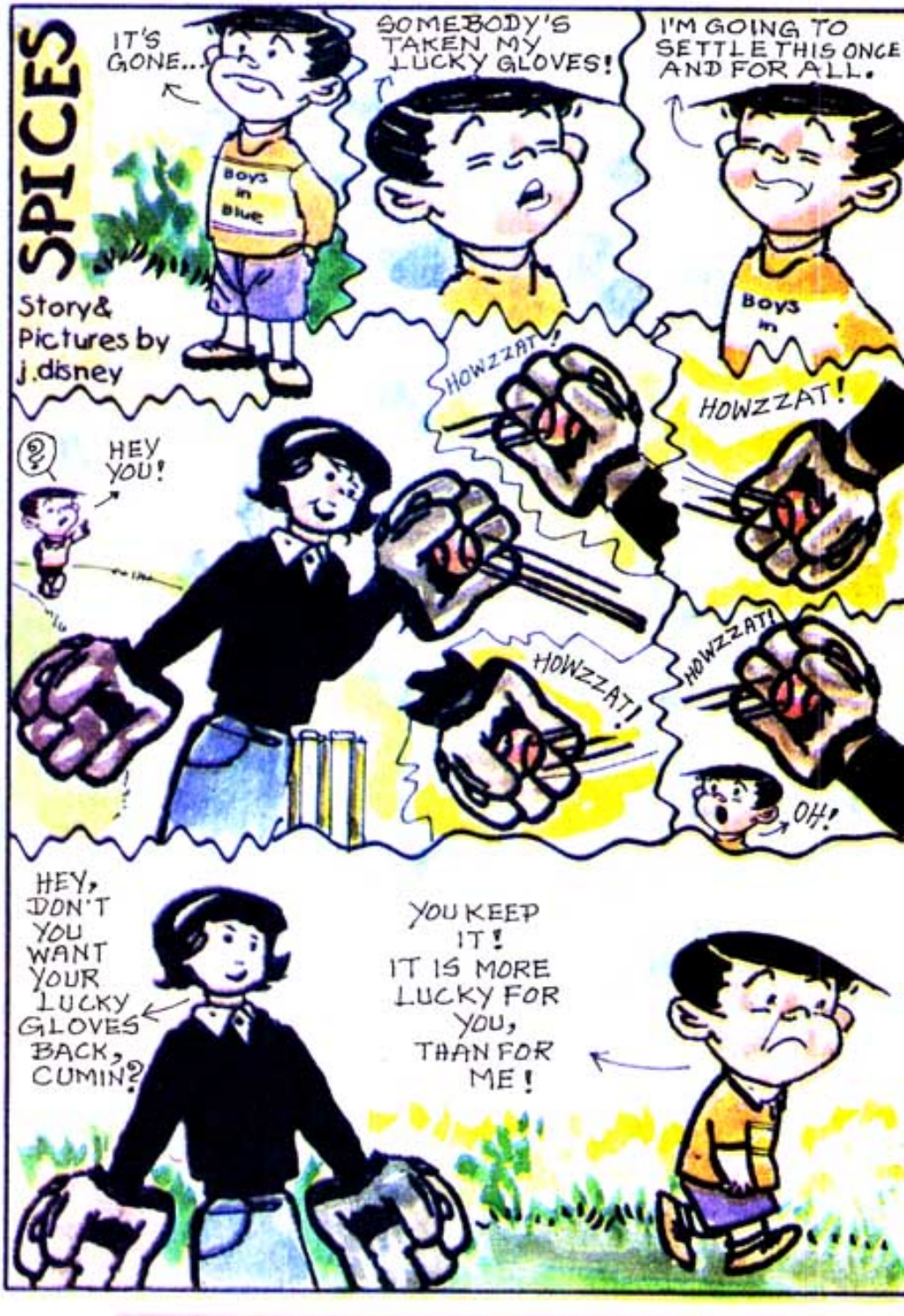
I want to take biology as my main subject. What should I do to develop interest in mathematics?

- N.G.Vijaya Gopal
Hyderabad

Dear Vijayan,

Mathematics is lollipop to some and a big headache to others. If you are not interested in mathematics don't force yourself to study the same. There must be other groups in your school which offer biology, besides other subjects excluding mathematics, (viz) Physics, chemistry and biology. Take one such group when you have to make the choice. Good luck!

Love,
Grandma worm


SPICES
Story& Pictures by j.disney
IT'S GONE...
SOMEBODY'S TAKEN MY LUCKY GLOVES!
I'M GOING TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
Boys in Blue
Boys in
HOWZZAT!
HOWZZAT!
HEY YOU!
HOWZZAT!
HOWZZAT!
OH!
HEY, DON'T YOU WANT YOUR LUCKY GLOVES BACK, CUMIN?
YOU KEEP IT! IT IS MORE LUCKY FOR YOU, THAN FOR ME!

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